

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2010 / 6:00 PM
NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY
16089 N. BULLARD
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04pm

A. Roll Call

Arts Committee Members Present: Kristy Miller (Chair), Sandra Staehle (Vice Chair), Eric Cultum, Kathie Morgan, Jim Biundo, Elise Hayden, Joanna Ciccolini-Mankewicz

Ex-Officio Arts Committee Members Present: Kendra Amburgey

Members Absent: Julie Richard (Ex-Officio)

City Staff: Melissa Miller, Dana Garr

Guests: Sherry Aguilar - City Clerk, and Jeff Mihelich - Community & Economic Development Director, Nancy Alcock, Surprise Historical Society President

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Note: As is customary when guests are present to speak on an agenda item, staff requested that items be taken out of order so that the guest speakers were free to leave as the remaining agenda items are addressed. No objections were received.

C. Current Events Reports – None

D. Staff Reports – When the board last met in May, staff had advised council was considering the consolidation of some boards within the city. As an update, M. Miller advised the board that council took action on September 9, 2010 to extend the terms of all boards and commissions through June 30, 2011 to provide ample time for consideration of board roles and how they tie into council's strategic priorities and for the recruitment of vacancies. This action included extending the current board chairs, and vice chairs until action to re-elect new officers was taken by each board. The Arts Board will need to vote on the chair position at the next meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No requests for the floor were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action on approving authorization for city staff to establish a policy that will regulate the process to place temporary and permanent art on city owned property.

Presentation by Mr. Jeff Mihelich, Community & Economic Development Director. Council requested that staff bring a Public Art Policy before the board for review. Several groups have approached the city with a request to display pieces in city facilities. The display would be an education opportunity as well as an opportunity to showcase pieces. Mr. Biundo requested history on how this item became a council agenda item. Mr. Mihelich advised that administrative policies typically go through council for approval, but in this

instance, council requested that the arts board review the policy prior to council taking action. Mr. Biundo inquired about the number of requests that have been received by the city to display art. Mr. Mihelich advised the information was not available on the requests received as the item on the agenda was the approval of the policy that will regulate the process for requests, and not how the requests were processed previously. Ms. Morgan stated that the context of how the policy came to be is as important as the policy if the item was to be understood before deciding/approving it. Ms. Morgan further clarified that the draft policy presented did not call for the Arts Board to decide on the pieces unless there was a conflict. Mr. Mihelich advised Ms. Morgan that was correct. Ms. Morgan requested a reversal of the policy to reflect the board will approve the pieces and then ask for assistance if needed. Mr. Mihelich restated the request to ensure the intent was to have “all pieces come before the Arts Board”, be it a tapestry, etc. Ms. Morgan advised Mr. Mihelich that he had correctly stated the revision requested. Ms. Morgan advised it was her understanding that this was within the scope of what the board was charged with. Also, building relationships within the artist community which would be a byproduct of the process. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz commented that in 2007 the board had received documents that said they were to recommend art to council. Ms. Morgan advised requested discussion on the portion of the policy regarding “subject matter”. Mr. Biundo commented that once one specifies subject matter, it becomes problematic. The board requested the following change to the policy:

Subject Matter: While the City looks forward to displaying a variety of media and subject matter, the artwork must be appropriate for a public setting and for viewing by all age groups. ~~Artwork that would be considered offensive or disturbing to the general public i.e. work depicting sex or violence will not be selected for display.~~

K. Miller commented that adding city reserves the right of final determination was standard. Ms. Hayden thought the portion advising that pieces must be unique was too broad. In response, the following portion struck from the policy:

~~Works of art must be unique and shall include excellence in craftsmanship, originality in conception, and integrity of materials.~~

Mr. Cultum asked if the fiscal impact of the agenda item was to be expanded upon. The board determined that the placard and contact information (which typically has a cost associated) was to be the artists responsibility.

Mr. Cultum sought clarification of the regulation of the process as a board responsibility or city staff responsibility. K. Miller reviewed the agenda wording – ***“Consideration and action on approving authorization for city staff to establish a policy that will regulate the process to place temporary and permanent art on city owned property.”*** M. Miller advised the policy revisions discussed tonight would result in staff agendizing artist requests to come before the board. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz called for the development of a blueprint for artists. K. Miller called for a motion. Mr. Biundo moved to approve the revised policy, seconded by E. Hayden. None opposed.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Discussion and possible action on approving authorization for city staff to establish a policy that will regulate the process to place temporary and permanent public art on city owned property.

Presentation by Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk. Ms. Aguilar opened by greeting the board and asked if they had read the book about the History of Surprise. The Mayor and Council had tasked Ms. Aguilar with completing the project prior to the 50th Anniversary of the City of Surprise. Pictures and items for a gallery had been collected. Communications came up with a logo that is located in the Mayor’s Atrium by the clerk’s office. Ms. Aguilar was born and raised in Surprise and vested in the project. The board was presented with a diagram of the area where the display will be located. Ideas are sought for how to put the pieces together. Ms. Nancy Alcock of the Surprise Historical Society presented options. Pictures of some of the first businessmen and their wives, who formed the Women of Surprise, as well as council members from the

1960's have been collected. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz complimented staff and Ms. Alcock on their effort saying fabulous job for not being artists. Ms. Aguilar presented the conceptual piece that will recognize past council members who started in Surprise. Mr. Cultum asked what this culminates toward in the 50th anniversary celebration to get an idea of the events leading up to Surprise Party. Ms. Aguilar advised Tara Combs attended the Historical Society Meeting and CRS is developing a list of events leading up to the celebration. Ms. Miller asked -With the Arts Board coming back to fruition, what elements can they tie into such as art contests, etc.? How do we recognize long term residents at upcoming events such as the Cancer Treatment Centers of America Tennis Tournament and the Arizona Fall League Rising Stars Game? A parade is being incorporated into Surprise Party. Ms. Aguilar advised that Founders Day from the 60's and 70's will be recognized in cooperation with the Historical Society who is building a float. Designer Margaret Lieu was in attendance at the meeting and acknowledged by the board. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked if the board will be asked to help on the project since much needs done by December. Ms. Aguilar welcomed any assistance they could provide. K. Miller commented that the Historical Society has already amassed a ton of items. More of how to put themes together and sort it all in a cohesive gallery look seems to be the need, and not trying to find additional artists. M. Miller commented that this is a large undertaking to be unveiled in December and a portion funded through the Surprise History book sales. Ms. Aguilar overviewed topics of the exhibits that are being considered for the photo gallery. K. Miller will look at artifacts and see if the Pueblo Grande can assist with curation or donation. Ms. Alcock reviewed the background on the exhibits. There was discussion regarding the modern feel of a historical exhibit. Options are being explored, but must complete the project by December. Any unfinished portions would be posed as a gallery in progress. Also, wires hanging from black frames to display photos would be integrated. Interactive touch screens would be great for students. Screens could also be recorded videos and display cases could hold artifacts. M. Miller advised that the Mayor has asked for a December timeline and would like something that provides an experience, discovery, and that the project be done right. Looking for ideas to accomplish this. Our graphic designer can help with creative and layout side of what we want to display. Also, being in the industry, does the board have contacts that may be less expensive than what we have? The second component is tapping into the board's resources to find suppliers of a similar product. All material is there, but need help putting it all together. Ms. Aguilar commented that they already have several photos in a timeline leading up the exhibit. Need to keep in mind that the atrium is very sunny and things fade fast. Ms. Hayden asked what the lead time is? Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked about funding. Perhaps the museum folks can get better pricing and the right people for the job quicker. Ms. Alcock advised they are working on alternative funding options and that they are hoping for a grant in October, as well as three large sponsors. K. Miller assisted in the drafting of the grant in the role of Humanities Scholar. Ms. Alcock advised they also need help on the interpretive (captions) portion of the project for the photographs and also the large sign outside the exhibit as part of the grant compliance. Mr. Cultum asked who had already committed to the project. Ms. Alcock shared that the art and photo clubs contribute as well as the creative committee. She questioned how both the city and Historical Society volunteers would work together? Mr. Cultum stressed the timeline. M. Miller advised we would need to meet again to put together an action plan and timeline, then decide who puts it all together. An open session joint meeting to compile certain components may need to occur. Perhaps a couple people would work on certain categories. We are seeking consensus from the board to participate. Next step would be a joint meeting of the boards. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked about other city employees that were artistic and who could offer assistance. M. Miller shared that the Historical Society is over sixty (60) members deep. Ms. Aguilar stated she needs help cataloguing everything now that the book is done – more of an artistic director type of person. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked where the manpower was coming from. Mr. Cultum offered that the Sun city Arts Board can help. Sun City West and Sun City Grand are separate. K. Amburgey asked if there were other display options, as her father has resources. Ms. Aguilar is hoping to categorize photos by the next meeting. Mr. Biundo – in looking at the initial list, can we show business community then and now, and also diversity? Ms. Alcock sees that future and changing exhibits as well as traveling exhibits will come down the road. Ms. Aguilar advised she was sensitive to these topics and was sure to cover them in the agricultural category. K. Morgan asked if Marley Park and Rancho Gabriella used to be rose gardens? Yes, and those are featured in the exhibit. Mr. Cultum commented that being relatively new, he found it interesting and wants to know what lies in the future. K. Morgan advised that she loves the list, but doesn't get a sense of community from it. Ms. Alcock shared that churches are

depicted but didn't make the final list, but we can certainly negotiate. M. Miller – perhaps in the council display as part of the sense of community, we can incorporate a background on the plaques reserved for future council members. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked if there was a budget and if we can get money donated. M. Miller responded that the Historical Society is a 501(3)(c) and can collect. K. Amburgey offered up West Valley Arts Movement and West Valley Arts Council as potential resources as well. S. Staehle inquired into the publicity that has been put out so far about the project. Ms. Alcock reported that the newspapers don't like to run articles that appear to ask for money, and ads cost money. S. Staehle asked about flyers and other ways to create awareness. Ms. Alcock advised that ordinances have to be followed. Mr. Cultum asked about email blasts. M. Miller will research ways to get the word out. The next meeting of the Surprise Historical Society is October 11 in the Mayor's Atrium at 3pm. E. Hayden asked if there should be a motion. M. Miller advised we do need a motion to support the project. Staff will research funding options and ask for support of specific timelines and tasks. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz committed to assisting with fundraising. K. Miller – Motion to provide hands on support as an Arts & Cultural Advisory Board, the continuation of the efforts of the Surprise Historical Society. Seconded by E. Hayden with the reminder that this task is due in less than 90 days. M. Miller will work on setting a special meeting in the next couple of weeks. She also reminded the board of open meeting law. Tasks may be completed outside of the regular meeting, but we need to report our efforts. The next meeting and contact info for the Historical Society will be sent to the board.

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Approval of the May 12, 2010 Arts Board meeting minutes.

E. Cultum – motion to approve the May 12, 2010 minutes with the stipulation that effective May 12, 2010 Ms. K. Miller had stated her intention to resign from the board. Seconded by E. Hayden. None opposed. Minutes revised to reflect the change requested.

OTHER BUSINESS

Future agenda items – J. Biundo requested information on the number of artist requests for display of public art be agendaized. He also requested discussion on the scope and purpose of the board. He believes the board is misunderstood and wants to know if they do, or do not encourage cultural activities. He believes the board should have been part of the Fiesta Surprise planning. M. Miller advised that municipal code is being revised for all boards and commissions. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz asked who is really leading this board and what are the policies and procedures and guidelines. For example: the resignation of the chair. How should that be handled? M. Miller committed to providing another overview of the current municipal code as well as Roberts Rules of Order. In addition, the next agenda will hold elections for chair, and possibly vice chair depending on board action. K. Morgan stated she is ok with K. Miller staying on the board, but would like her to personally recall her resignation, as that is what I heard at the last meeting-for the record. Mr. Biundo would like to see Ms. Amburgey a permanent representative on the board, as the ex-officios have changed. Are we the only board with these issues? Ms. Ciccolini-Mankewicz commented that he board has been very active on past projects such as grants, and city hall and fire station artist selections. M. Miller asked that we stay within the context of the agenda and that there is value in visiting all these item during the next meeting.

Final items for the next agenda:

Municipal code and open meeting law review
Strategic plan (revisit what the board has already completed)
Review the City of Surprise Ethics Policy for Boards and Commissions
Resignations
Attendance Policy (will fall under municipal code)
Vote for chair and possibly vice chair
Update on the Surprise Historical Society Project
Approval of minutes

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm. The next meeting to be October 4, 2010 at 6pm.

ATTEST:

Kristy Miller, Chair

CERTIFICATION:

I, Dana Garr, Analyst for the City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts Board meeting held on September 13, 2010.

Dana Garr, Analyst

POSTED:

TIME:

Linda Stevens, Deputy City Clerk

SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals needing reasonable accommodations, such as large print materials and oral/ ASL interpreters, should contact the Disability Advocate at **623.222.3821** (Voice) or **623.222.3802** (TTY/VP) at least three (3) business days prior to the event so arrangements can be made.