

**CITY OF SURPRISE  
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 1, 2012 / 6:00 PM**

**COMMUNITY & RECREATION SERVICES  
15960 NORTH BULLARD AVENUE  
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**A. Roll Call**

Sandra Staehle (Chair), Margaret Lieu (Vice Chair), Kathie Morgan, Susan deJong, Fred Ramsay, Loretta Warner (absent), Heather Donaldson and Paul Frie

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Current Events Reports**

Sandi Staehle (S. Staehle) reported on several museums she visited while travelling abroad as well as the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada. She reported that she sent two pages of comments to Councilman Biundo regarding the new Board/Commission Handbook prior to her departure referencing some inconsistencies and recommendations. She also advised that she had conducted a presentation for the General Plan Commission from which much of what she spoke about appears to be included in their recommendations. She provided the commission with an update of where we are with the Public Art Hanging Policy, and stated that Michael Bailey put together a summary of what he perceived to be this commission's issues after he met with us which he forwarded to several City Staff who forwarded it to her. She reviewed the list with Julie Richard to make sure all of the issues were covered from the organization's perspective as well as she had a conversation with Connie Whitlock regarding the same. She reported that some of the issues that were discussed with Mr. Bailey were not listed in his summary. She advised that they responded to the omitted issues, the correct issues and issues that needed further clarification to make sure that we had complete understandings so that everyone is on the same page. She also made it clear of exactly what this commission's recommendations were. She further advised that Mr. Bailey then took her comments and attempted to merge them with his own in a document that he said would be going to Council. At this point, Ms. Staehle called Mark Coronado to ask for some help as she did not think the document gives Council what they are looking for but at the same time she did not want to spend a lot of time re-writing a document and have it be rejected as had been done in the past. S. Staehle made some editorial changes to the document for it to be presented to Council but advised that it is not perfect and not the way that she would have set it up, however at this point it is more important to get something in front of Council so that we can get a policy in place.

Margaret Lieu (M. Lieu) reported that the Arts Information Exchange Breakfast took place which she believes went well. She reported on several events she attended, one of which was the Tourism Advisory Commission meeting where that commission did not grant funds to WHAM. She advised that she was unable to speak at the meeting due to her ties with this commission as well as with WHAM.

Kathie Morgan (K. Morgan) reported that she attended the Arts Information Exchange Breakfast which she felt was a success, however she suggested that the meeting be held in a different format in the future to invite more group interaction and cross communication.

Susan deJong (S. deJong) reported that she too attended the Tourism Advisory Commission meeting where the WHAM item was addressed which she felt was odd as the regular Chair was absent and the meeting was conducted by someone not very familiar with running a meeting. She reported that she felt that the WHAM item should be re-looked at by the Tourism Advisory Commission. She also advised that the money granted to the Thunderbird Artists festival was for advertising, and the money requested by WHAM was not just for advertising which was an issue for the Tourism Advisory Commission. S. Staehle asked for examples. S. deJong reported that WHAM had requested money for operating expenses of the festival whereas Thunderbird Artists only requested money for advertising. S. deJong also reported on several other events she attended since the last Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting.

Fred Ramsay (F. Ramsay) reported that he had recently been out of the country and he commented on some museums and attractions which he visited while abroad. He further commented that he has been a member of this commission for a year now, and he feels that it cannot get anything done. He stated that he feels this commission should not have supported the Thunderbird Artists festival since they have never seen it. He asked the question "what are we doing here?"

**D. Staff reports**

Paul Frie (P. Frie) reviewed the checklist with the commission. He advised that the new Boards and Commissions handbook was officially adopted on September 25, 2012 and that he received an e-mail from City Clerk, Sherry Aguilar, that as soon as we are given direction from the City Manager it will be officially put into place, and the beginning part of it will be setting up training sessions for all boards/commission and staff included. He advised that Janeen Gaskins has been booked to speak at the November meeting to talk about grant possibilities. Heather Donaldson (H. Donaldson) advised the commission that she is working on the minutes for the Arts Information Exchange Breakfast, and as soon as they are complete they will be posted and she will forward a copy of them to this commission. She also reported that she is compiling a list of attendees and their e-mail addresses from the sign-in sheet at the breakfast, and if anyone is interested in obtaining a copy to please let her know and she will forward it to them. She also reported that the posted agenda was missing the last page of the minutes from the last meeting, but she forwarded a revised copy of the minutes to this commission prior to this meeting, and she advised the public that the minutes posted online have been updated.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Andy Cepon, Surprise resident, looks forward to the next meeting which will be held at City Hall. He wanted to address the Public Arts Policy issue and commented that he believes the core issue is that certain City Staff is still strictly interfering with the public process of boards and commissions. They are not relinquishing control which they never should have had in the first place. It is clearly the intent of City Council through the adoption of this new manual to show citizen commissions that their opinions and their work is valued through their insistence that it be communicated by the commission twice a year. He commented that he hopes this commission will take an active role and expose this issue.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

### Item 1 – CITYWIDE – City Clerk Sherry Aguilar will conduct the Oath of Office for Kathie L. Morgan and Susan deJong.

Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk, swore in Kathie L. Morgan and Susan deJong.

### Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2012 Arts & Cultural Advisory Board Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of the September 10, 2012 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting – Fred Ramsay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan deJong. Five yes votes. Motion carried.

### Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Discussion of how the Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission can initiate participation in the Surprise community.

S. deJong addressed the commission and stated that this is something that came out of the breakfast. She stated that we don't have any money and she doesn't know when we will, but listening to what other communities are doing made her think that we could possibly as a group do something in Surprise that doesn't necessarily cost anything, but could get the community together and get the community more aware of the possibilities. She commented that one community spoke of a G.A.I.N. program as well as Hot Coffee and Cool Topics which is a series of programs offered to the community to get people to talk about issues or hear from an artist speaking. She commented that she would like to have a continuing agenda item where this commission can all be involved in discussing things that they would like to do, which they can do, without running into interference from Council, etc. She said there must be something we can do; we just need to figure out what it is. S. Staehle commented that she likes the idea, however this is an advisory commission and not an action commission, and even though a lot of us cross the line and participate in a lot of things both for the City and for other organizations in the City it is really hard for a seven member advisory commission which is not allowed to have sub-committees to do things on an action basis. She commented that if we wanted to go down that road she thinks it would require another discussion with Council about the purpose of this board. S. deJong said she feels we need to have that discussion then as many of this commission's members do other things. F. Ramsay said that we could do this by posting an open meeting at a time other than Monday night and have an agenda item read exactly what you want, and then you don't need to ask anyone's permission. K. Morgan advised that she thinks that we really do need to decide as a board if we want to do this, because we are setup to be an advisory commission and to be a conduit of support for organizations versus the vehicle who provides the hands on work, not that we can't volunteer, but that is our own personal time. This board has gone through a full circle of who we are, and we finally got to a point where we wrote a strategic plan defining who we are, and what we are now talking about is not in that plan. She is not suggesting that it cannot be revisited if we prefer as a commission, but she also would like to see what the new handbook provides as latitude for doing those kinds of things, if it does at all. She feels that we need to see what the handbook says and we need to have a discussion amongst ourselves in terms of how do we see our role as it is defined or are we wanting to suggest it be altered. M. Lieu asked what if we were

to find partners who would be willing to partner up, and then we are not acting on our own. S. Staehle said she believes that was what K. Morgan was suggesting in that we facilitate and help the implementation as opposed to being the creators and taking on the action items to do it all ourselves. M. Lieu asked if we could begin that part. S. Staehle responded that she doesn't see that as being in conflict with either our mission or what is in the ordinance and in the strategic plan. P. Frie suggested contacting the people who gave the presentations and see how they facilitate these programs. M. Lieu commented that she believes our first step should be to contact Dianne Cripe of the City of Goodyear to find out how she facilitates these types of programs as well as the West Valley Arts Council. S. Staehle suggested having a continued discussion on this topic during a future meeting. The rest of the commission agreed.

#### **Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and possible action to place items on a future agenda.**

- Continued discussion of how Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission can initiate participation in the Surprise Community
- Update on the Public Art Policy
- Discussion with Janeen Gaskins regarding alternate funding sources
- Discussion regarding ex-officio commission members
- Discussion of protocol for activity inside and outside of commission meetings beyond the open meeting law

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

S. Staehle commented that this commission is short by one member and advised the commission that the position has been posted for quite some time but that nobody has applied for the position. She encouraged everyone to go out and contact people to apply for the position.

K. Morgan addressed the commission with concerns stemming from the Vice-Chair elections. She advised that after the voting took place it was brought to her attention by S. deJong that she had placed M. Lieu's name in nomination in response to a request by M. Lieu via a phone call the evening before the meeting. K. Morgan advised that she is speaking about this not to speak about anyone in particular but to speak about the activity that took place, and she further advised that she is not looking for agreement or disagreement but that she is really just looking to state the principal that she stands on in terms of this commission. She took issue with the information being presented to her for two reasons; the activity in and of itself, because she does not feel we are politicians out trying to solicit nominations from each other, and because it was positioned that the nomination was nothing more than a response to a request. She stated that we have all raised our eyebrows around the notion that we are not allowed to be in sub-committee, and now she thinks everyone can understand why it can be of possible concern as allegiances can be formed which later can cause someone to say, as a favor or at my request will you do something. She stated that while in twos we could discuss that, as it is not a quorum, she does not think that is how our voting and motions should happen. When a nomination or an action is placed in motion, she interprets it should be that person's

well thought out opinion in terms of wanting to make that motion or to suggest that action, not that it is a reflection of a request of another person. She stated that she was almost too intimidated to have this conversation being the outgoing vice-chair, but that it really is not about that but about how we want to operate as a commission. She said it was difficult during the evening when the elections took place when she was asked if she wanted a nomination, and while she might have said yes knowing the other nomination was a nomination by request, she said maybe it is time for new blood. Not knowing what put that name in nomination drew her to a certain action where had she known that she may have responded differently. She said she appreciated M Lieu's letter to the commission and advised that as soon as she found out from S. deJong about the nomination she had written a letter to M. Lieu stating her disagreement with what had been done and how it had been done because she thinks we are a commission who so takes the high moral ground on full disclosure and transparency that she saw that as one of the least transparent moments since she has been on this commission. She understands the practice behind the scene that we may express interest to one another, but she thinks it should come as a nomination or an action that is coming from us so she sent a letter of objection for that reason. She also advised the commission that she asked M. Lieu to rescind the nomination, because she does not feel that it was in any way made on what was a fair playing field either to this commission or to the public as they need to know that we have a fiduciary responsibility to the public that when we make an action or we place a vote that it was with full understanding and full thought out activity on our part in terms of why we are taking action. She stated that privilege was removed from this commission at the time of that action, and the public was not privy to that either. She said that whether we legally can have a discussion outside is not what she is talking about, but what is our own personal moral compass for when we place something in action and when we make a nomination or a motion, and for her she needs to know that her fellow commission members are making that from a very well thought out prior activity and not in response to a request by another commission member. Her request to this commission for the future is that if we are putting anything into action in response to a request that we state that as part of making that statement or action, otherwise she would like to assume it is our own thought out activity that is drawing us to make that kind of action. She committed to the commission that anytime she makes any type of action it is because it is her action and her thought and not in response to any allegiance or conversation with another commission member.

S. deJong responded that it was true that M. Lieu requested the nomination from her, however she stated that she never would have nominated her had she not been on this commission for a year, worked with her, seen what she does and seen the quality of what she does. S. deJong stated that she did not know that M. Lieu was interested in the Vice-Chair position, and once she found out that she was she thought it was a wonderful idea, and it would be up to the commission to decide who would be the Vice-Chair so she put her name in nomination. The request was only something that made her aware of what M. Lieu wanted to do, but her nominating her was because she felt she was extremely qualified for it. K. Morgan responded that she wished S. deJong had put that in an e-mail that was sent to her by S. deJong which stated that the nomination has nothing to do with anything other than the request. S. deJong stated that the nomination had nothing to do with her feeling toward K. Morgan, to which K. Morgan responded that it was not interpreted as personal but the word request which made her think beyond that one activity. S. deJong advised K. Morgan that the reason she wrote to her in the first place was to let her know that it was not personal. K. Morgan stated that she is removed from the personal aspect and what she is talking about is the principal; do we as a

commission feel that it is important when we take any action, not necessarily a nomination but any action where we make a motion, that the motion can stand and be assumed by the commission that it is representative and reflective that we have come to our own place by which we are making that action versus a response to a request. S. Staehle said that K. Morgan was assuming that S. deJong did not think this through and that she just did it because M. Lieu asked her to. She further stated that if S. deJong could have said no if she did not think M. Lieu was qualified. K. Morgan responded that she is not assuming any of that and that she is not focused on that one single activity. S. Staehle stated that anybody could go to anyone with this type or any type of request and the other person can always respond that they do not want to do it. She said the most important aspect to her in terms of transparency is that the nomination happened in a public meeting, and everyone was given the opportunity to discuss and to raise any discussion issue with respect to the nominee and to put anyone else's name into nomination, so she does not see the same transparency problem which K. Morgan does. K. Morgan stated that she is not asking anyone else to own the issue that she is having and just wanted to let the commission know that she does have an issue. She further stated that there were three members on this commission previously who participated in the same type of activity at which time we were a very ineffective commission until they left, which is why she is bringing this forward. She does not want us to slip back to side discussions that result in an action. F. Ramsay commented that he needs to think about this moral question for a while which goes beyond nominations but goes into the question of sub-committees that don't exist but really do exist. He said he would like to have time to think this through. S. Staehle asked if he would like to have this on next month's agenda to which he responded yes so that he could have more time to think about it and figure out what we want to do. K. Morgan said she thinks it is a great suggestion since it is not just about nominations.

**ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Fred Ramsay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathie Morgan. Five yes votes. Motion carried.**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Coronado, Director  
Community & Recreation Services

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist 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 and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on October 1, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist