CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

November 2, 2020 / 6:00 PM

COUNCIL OVERFLOW ROOM
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER:

A. **Roll Call**

Chair Margaret Lieu, Vice-Chair Deborah Welch, Commission members, Susan deJong, Kathie Morgan, Rhiannon Miett, Jay Lickus (1 Vacancy).

Staff: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst, Hobie Wingard, Assistant City Attorney, Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Director.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

C. **Current Events Reports**

Chair Lieu attended an art opening at WVAC, a poetry event at WHAM, and dressed up for Halloween to celebrate with her high school students. Aside from art events, she says that she has been busy working with all of the distance learning that has been taking place at her school.

Mr. Lickus attended the WVAC reception, and spent a week down in Cabo, where he was able to view the local art; there are at least 20 studios down in the town, and he was able to learn about making paper art, tree art, recycled art, and more. He said that the city itself is an art piece.

Ms. deJong attended a number of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day planning meetings for the city's planned virtual event. She attended the re-opening of Arts HQ, and shared that instead of food, they are handing out goodie bags, which have included artistic elements like colored pencils. She would like for the commission to model this idea, and passed around a sample for everyone to look at. She also attended the underground poetry slam, which was a real success, and attended the new online AZ Humanities Frank Talk. Additionally, she went to the Ground Floor Artists studio opening, and took part in a planning meeting with Sandra Bassett for Lunchtime Theater. Finally, she met with Nancy Christy Moore, who suggested the commission take part of the City Hall gallery and create a Wall of Fame for Surprise Artists who have become well-known outside of the city; as each installation rotates, pieces of art from these artists could be included.

Vice-Chair Welch shared that she has traveled a lot since the last meeting, and spent a week in Indiana where she viewed some art in the smaller community. She thoroughly enjoyed one piece in particular called "Art in the Alley" which revitalizes alleys in Columbia City. She noticed that they combined old town history in blue/gray hues, and modern history in more vibrant color.

Ms. Miett attended the "Curiouser and Curiouser" event at Theater Works and thought it was well done and the best two hours she has spent in a long time. She shared that Theater Works would be continuing this model through their next performance: "Curiouser Nutcracker." She added that a new stained glass entry was installed and assisted by WHAM, and looked fantastic. She is excited to see Theater Works adapting to the pandemic. She also went to the Alamar opening with art in all of the parks, and felt that the developer got some great deals for the quality of work they got, which currently includes six pieces.

Ms. Morgan attended a work group meeting with Jay and Margaret related to the WVAC video production. She shared that the Phoenix & Herberger Theaters have created an outdoor theater, which will run through April and include an outdoor bar. She thought that it was a very creative solution.

D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Introduced Hobie Wingard, Assistant City Attorney
  - Mr. Wingard has been working with Ms. Osborne on agendas and legal inquiries for the past year
  - The City Attorney's Office presence at these meetings will resume in order to offer guidance on the legal inquiries that are coming up at a higher frequency
- Vision & Sound item pushed to December agenda – see information provided by Norma Cunningham, which was forwarded with the agenda last week (still working on details of event)
- DUSD also asked to be pushed to December – still uncertainty associated with their event; they are not quite ready to present
- Public Works Operations Facility – installation begins today (November 2nd)
- FS 308 RFP closes November 12th
- Interviews for the commission vacancy will take place next Monday, November 9th

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the October 5, 2020 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Morgan requested that item 3 on page 5 be corrected to state that the reproducers of the art could sell the art, but could not sell it having retitled it, putting their own name on it, or putting the original artist's name on it.

Vice-Chair Welch moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting with noted changes. Ms. deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Discussion pertaining to the addition of a public mural to the City's permanent art collection.

Chair Lieu said that BacPac could not attend due to another project she is working on. She turned the item over to Ms. Osborne for additional background. Ms. Osborne pointed out that she has since noticed a greater amount of visual obstructions, including trees and parking signs, which are in front of the wall in question. She included a picture in the packet for reference.

She pointed out that while the Hollyhock Pool was not previously an option for a mural site, BacPac submitted a proposal for the location. Ms. Osborne reviewed the option with the Parks & Recreation Department for feedback; staff's feedback was that an additional mural on the left side of the Aquatic Center entrance may be too busy, therefore if there was an option, they would prefer a compliment mural at Hollyhock. They also expressed that they were not favorable to the depiction of babies swimming underwater, as it goes against the messaging they spread regarding leaving children unattended around water, drowning impact awareness, etc.

Ms. Osborne felt that this discussion raised an important point about the process surrounding unsolicited proposals. Citing examples such as the feedback provided by Parks & Rec, as well as previous discussions surrounding other potential art locations, she hoped to begin including city staff on the evaluation process sooner, to surpass any issues at the front end. She also mentioned creating a uniform process for public outreach, so that resident feedback could be included in these projects. Circling back to the project at-hand, Ms. Osborne shared that BacPac's current project has had a change in deadline, which caused her absence for this item. Ms. Osborne said that she will continue to update BacPac as the process for this mural proceeds.

Chair Lieu explained that the Policies & Procedures are broad for a reason, but as the commission grows and expands, there may be a need to start filling in the gaps, and putting a few processes in place. Ms. Osborne said that while there are times where broad policies are appropriate, there are other times, such as these, where the need for consistency is critical. The hope is that the protocol is not overly strict, but generally follows the same steps.

Ms. deJong liked Parks & Recreation's idea of more art in the OTS. Chair Lieu agreed to a certain extent; she felt that the Aquatic Center would look empty without the completion of the wall. She suggested a more paired-down mural on the left side, perhaps something with less detail. She added that if the Hollyhock Pool was an option, she would like to see something different depicted there.

Ms. Miett suggested seeking public opinion on art locations, but Chair Lieu felt that it could create more issues than solutions. Ms. Osborne preferred to work with pre-approved locations only. She added that by asking for feedback and not delivering on certain areas, a sense of disappointment or mistrust may be created with the public.

Chair Lieu summarized that while the commission agreed that Hollyhock is a different project, the Aquatic Center is not off the table. Ms. Morgan suggested carrying the theme of water from the side of the center all the way across the front of the building, including the pillars of the entrance. Ms. Miett did not like the idea of painting the left side of the entrance, but was in favor of wrapping the art around the Bullard side.

Chair Lieu suggested simplifying the design by fading the water design into the beige of the wall. Ms. Morgan agreed, saying that she did not like the idea of animals depicted on the left side, because it makes her think of an aquarium. Chair Lieu again suggested petering out the water design so that it would fade into the building color.

After additional discussion, it was determined by the commission that further discussion would need to take place among the panel. Overall, no one was in favor of a full mural on the left side, of the entrance. The commission did feel that something was needed to help bring completion to the mural. The panel was asked to meet once again to finalize a design with BacPac, rather than having her attend a full meeting. Ms. Morgan suggested that in the future, the commission finalize details before reaching out to artists, as these proposals can be time-consuming for them. Ms. Osborne pointed to this exact scenario as the need for a more formalized process.

Item 3 – <u>Discussion pertaining to a video produced by the West Valley Arts Council related to art in the City of Surprise.</u>

Chair Lieu shared her initial concerns regarding the video and potential violation of the gift clause, however upon further research, Ms. Osborne found that it would not entail a violation. Ms. Morgan overviewed the feedback provided by the panel upon their review of the video.

Chair Lieu reminded the commission that whenever a gift is presented, they have the option of not accepting it. She shared a thought about the process with the Peace Pole donation, and how certain stipulations were made in order for it to be accepted.

Ms. Morgan began the discussion by asking whether the commission wanted to accept the video. She felt that it had since become outdated, and that any requested changes would result in more effort than the value it could bring. Ms. Miett felt that accepting the video would result in additional groups soliciting services to the commission. Mr. Lickus agreed that it was no longer relevant due to the timing, and that accepting the video would require more modification than it was worth. Chair Lieu felt that any videos produced about the gallery should be discussing the city's programs and offerings, which is more aligned with what the Marketing & Communications Department could produce. Ms. Miett said that there could be opportunities to partner with organizations or the school district if this type of video was desired.

Mr. Wingard opined that he had no concern regarding gift clause, but he was concerned about setting a precedent. Mr. Lickus asked whether accepting the gift obligated the city to do anything with the video. Mr. Wingard responded that the gift clause had more to do with the city gifting something, not the other way around. Chair Lieu felt that she did not want to accept a gift only for it to go unused.

Ms. Osborne asked for direction. The commission agreed to respectfully decline the gift.

Item 4 – <u>Discussion pertaining to procuring art pieces for the City's permanent art collection.</u>

Ms. Osborne shared that she had some initial confusion related to the art pieces, and clarified for the group. The first piece, Joe Tyler's "Five C's," was requested to be reviewed by the commission to ascertain whether there was interest in purchasing them for the City's art collection, with a location to be determined. The second piece, Logan Simpson's proposal, was brought forth to the commission for consideration of placement in the center of the Development Center lobby seating area.

Chair Lieu clarified that regarding the Joe Tyler piece, she and Ms. deJong went to his home to look at his moquettes, and found these five pieces hidden in a locker. They represent the 5 C's of Arizona (Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Climate). The piece was of particular interest because were unique and had much detail in each one that would require close inspection. She added that although the city has several Joe Tyler pieces, it isn't often that you see the 5 C's in Arizona anymore.

Ms. deJong added that the piece represents all of Arizona, not just Surprise. Chair Lieu said that it would not necessarily need to be placed in the lobby seating area, but could go elsewhere in a city facility. If the commission did not feel strongly about the pieces, they could opt not to procure it at all. Ms. deJong said that she had not inquired about a price, but Ms. Osborne said that staff would reach out for a former proposal.

Ms. Morgan inquired about having both Mr. Tyler and Logan Simpson collaborate on a centerpiece for the bench. Ms. Miett felt that while she was a fan of Mr. Tyler's work, she felt that he was already well-represented throughout the city. She suggested that if the commission did opt to pursue the purchase, it be placed somewhere in the OTS, such as the Senior Center, to help further spread artistic reach. Chair Lieu similarly suggested the TechCelerator. Ms. Morgan suggested pursuing the cost before committing to anything. Ms. Osborne said that she would reach out to Mr. Tyler.

Chair Lieu introduced Logan Simpson's proposal. She reminded the commission that an RFP was solicited during the last fiscal year, with an award amount of $7,500, which produced one response that was deemed unsatisfactory. With spending setbacks due to COVID-19, there was plenty of budget available to pursue this option. Various commissioners expressed their inclination towards pursuing the proposal. A few questions arose regarding details of the proposal, of which Ms. Osborne referred to the summary provided by Logan Simpson. Chair Lieu liked that the mountains would compliment the White Tank Mountains mural in the City Cashier's Office. She asked the commission for any suggested changes.

Ms. Miett felt that there was nothing like this piece depicted within the city. The commissioners discussed the details of the piece. Ms. Morgan and Ms. deJong both opined that nothing should be changed within the proposal. Ms. Morgan appreciated the level of research and detail that was put into the proposal. Ms. Osborne said that if the commission were interested in pursuing the piece, she would need to run the proposal past the Risk Manager and staff in the Development Center to ensure that it satisfies all parties.

Item 5 – Discussion pertaining to the display within the Mobile Museum.

Ms. Morgan requested this item be tabled for a future meeting.

Item 6 – Discussion pertaining to the procurement of services to replicate a painting of Lizard Acres for the City's permanent art collection.

Ms. Osborne summarized her findings with Legal. Essentially, there were a number of copyright issues that came up, and unless a next of kin was located and had authority to sign off on reproduction of the piece, there was not a safe legal route to take aside from waiting for general copyright time to expire. The bottom line was that staff did not recommend moving forward with this request.

Mr. Lickus asked whether there were any ramifications with asking for the piece to be donated. Mr. Wingard responded that it was more of a factual matter. We do not know who the next of kin is, and do not want to potentially make money off of another artist's work. Ms. Morgan was not comfortable asking Mr. Tyler to donate the piece since it is part of his personal collection. Ms. deJong suggested abandoning the request due to the legal implications.

Item 7 – <u>Discussion pertaining to the design of supplemental materials for the Public Art Maps.</u>

Ms. Osborne overviewed the design created by the city's graphic artist. It would include all of the pieces installed since the last design. She added that through the course of designing the supplement, it was found that any additional inclusions would not fit well within the map's current format. She asked the commission to begin thinking of other designs and bringing forward examples of a new map format that could be adapted to the city's public art map.

Chair Lieu made a suggestion to omit the word "touch" in light of the pandemic. Vice-Chair Welch suggested the word "share" instead. Ms. Miett pointed out that the address for "Together We Will" was incorrect.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

Vision & Sound
DUSD
Poetry Slam at WHAM
Mobile Museum
Budget
Gallery 37
BacPac murals
Development Center Bench
Joe Tyler pieces

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:35 p.m. – Ms. Miett, 2nd by Ms. deJong. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Margaret Lieu
Margaret Lieu, Chair

ATTEST:

D. Osborne
Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst

CERTIFICATION:

I, Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst for the City of Surprise City Manager's Office, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on November 2, 2020.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst