

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

October 5, 2020 / 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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, Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Director (via conference call).

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu attended West Valley Arts Council's first gallery opening. She said that it was nice to return to an in-person event, and that it was a good first opening. She shared that there would be another opening on the 16th, and that registration through Eventbrite was necessary to reserve a spot. Chair Lieu attended a Poetry Slam meeting to continue planning. She also shared a copy of the Progress magazine, which featured many of the commission's latest endeavors. Finally, she shared that she received a letter of resignation from Crystal Miller, who was going to be doing a lot of things that will take up her time; reducing her ability to devote time to the commission. Chair Lieu thanked Crystal for her service.

Ms. Miett shared news of a new development, which would be incorporating big pieces of art, as well as smaller pieces throughout their community park. The development is in Avondale on the way out to Phoenix International Raceway (PIR). Additionally, she discussed the presentation to City Council which took place on the 15th for the Public Safety Evidence and Readiness Center (PSERC). Council had lots of questions and concerns regarding this project. Ms. Miett thanked Margaret for coming up to assist with the presentation, and thanked staff for all of their help in making the project a reality. Ms. Miett suggested some changes to presentations moving forward, to help remind the Council and the Public of how the projects came about.

Mr. Lickus attended the opening of WVAC. He also traveled to Rocky Point, where he viewed artwork throughout the city, including works by world-renowned artists, and plenty of museums, although they were mostly closed. He felt that there was a progressive arts culture in that city. Mr. Lickus shared that he is a sustaining member of KJZZ, and that the station hosts an art spotlight, which showcases work that is mostly on the east side. Mr. Lickus hopes to use his connections to help showcase art on the west side.

Ms. deJong went to the WVAC reception, and said that it was nice to get back to receptions. She also met with Mr. Lickus and Ms. Morgan about the video provided by WVAC. She also participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day planning meeting. Additionally, she met with Sandra Bassett and Ms. Morgan regarding the schedule for the gallery. Finally, she went to the opening of the West Valley Arts Museum, as well as the “Cowgirl Up!” show at Desert Caballeros museum.

Ms. Morgan met with Ms. deJong and Sandra Bassett regarding the city art exhibits, and attended a separate meeting with Ms. deJong and Mr. Lickus regarding the video provided by WVAC.

Chair Lieu added that she attended the Theater Works production of “Curiouser and Curiouser.” Additionally, she shared that Peoria just opened a new park up north, and that they just opened some new pieces of art. She felt that art is the one thing that has continued to move forward in the midst of the pandemic.

Ms. Morgan pointed to a handout that was provided to the group, and clarified that it had feedback provided for the WVAC video. The working group met and decided on some modifications to the current video, but also provided some suggestions for future videos. She said that the working group would like to gather the thoughts of the full commission prior to meeting with Sandra. She asked the commission to review the suggested feedback and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Some factors to be considered were elements such as the narrator, involvement of commission members, etc. Ms. deJong added that there could potentially be additional choices for narrators beyond commissioners.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Progress magazine – this issue was very art-heavy; Ms. Osborne provided copies to each of the commissioners
- Public Works Operations Facility – after a lengthy holdup that was beyond the city’s control, the final permit was issued today. Logan Simpson now needs to schedule installation. When the installation occurs, it will probably take no longer than two weekends. Art should be visible in that area soon
- FS 308 RFP distributed 9/31, closes 11/12
- FS 304: 3D scan for firefighter sculpture (with city-provided equipment) has been completed, and the carving of the sculpture will begin this week. Chief Espie of the Fire Department is having his team narrow in on some options for the historical photo, and upon approval by the panel, the final selection of the photo will be supplied to Logan Simpson.
- PSERC wall concept and artist approved by Council 9/15; staff and the architect & construction team held an initial phone conference with Mr. Weitzman to determine next steps; I emphasized the panel’s involvement on approving design concepts throughout the process. More details to follow. Major thank you to the panel for working through this challenging location, and shout out to Rhiannon and Margaret for being present and fielding questions from Council the night of the approval.
- Mayor’s Atrium remodel – the Clerk’s Office reception area will be expanded to accommodate passport customers. Work will be underway soon due to City Hall closure. Display case closest to the north automatic doors will be affected; we need to find a new home for it. Think about this, we will put it on a future agenda for discussion.

- History Wall Video – Marketing & Communications is undertaking a city initiative to create a video for the History Wall. No timeline yet, but I will continue to update the commission accordingly. Likely to begin after fall events complete their transition to a virtual platform.
- Municipal Art Fund: Balance of \$183,200 for FY21. \$9,800 of those dollars are set to expire in FY22, unless an extension is requested
- Mr. Dyson acknowledged Ms. Osborne and all of the work that she's done. He said that there is a lot of work going on, and that the Progress magazine is proof of that. In order to help with this additional work, the Human Service & Community Vitality Department (HSCV) will be supporting the commission even further. As the commission has been made aware, Mr. Bernardo left the city. Now, the vacant position has been modified to support the Arts and Veterans, Disability and Human Services commissions. Once the new person is on-boarded, they will be reaching out to each commissioner individually to meet and be introduced.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Andy Cepon, longtime resident – After hearing the Marketing & Communications Department's plan to do a History Wall video, he hopes that it involves interviews with the Original Town Site residents. He also hopes that it includes the involvement of the commissioners. He reminded the commission that the City Clerk is also the local historian. The Surprise History Book included interviews with OTS residents. This video could be used as a tool to help spotlight those longtime families who have lived in the OTS for generations. Mr. Cepon concluded by saying that extra effort must be made to reach out to those OTS residents for this video.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the September 14, 2020 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Ms. Morgan noted a correction to page 7, item 9. The date should be January 20th; it reads January 21st.

Ms. Miett moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting with the correction. Ms. deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Discussion pertaining to allocating funds toward upcoming Poetry Slam events.

Chair Lieu recused herself from the discussion, as she is a member of WHAM. Vice-Chair Welch presided over the item.

Ms. Morgan asked for more background. Ms. deJong said that the commission has a number of partners that it works with, such as the Lunchtime Theater for WVAC. They earn money through ticket sales since the money goes through them. We host bus tours to Benevilla, and although we don't pay them, we go to Birt's Bistro afterwards. With the Poetry Slam and WHAM, Dustin does a lot of work, and the commission has never paid him aside from a gift certificate once. The commission has never offered to pay them for their work despite WHAM going out of their way to host the event. All other events have worked out in other ways, but with WHAM, there is no easy route. Ms. deJong proposed that the commission allocate funds in their budget for this ongoing event. This would allow WHAM to

pay Dustin for his services, staff for their work, it could help with the electric bill, and refreshments provided at the event. Ms. deJong shared that she and Chair Lieu have been to the Poetry Slams, and they have been fabulous experiences. The event provides an opportunity for people of all ages to relate to one another. This year, an ASU professor is helping to try and bring more of this kind of culture to the West Valley. Ms. deJong felt that \$1200 a year would not be asking much.

Ms. Mielt felt that it was worth the investment. She had never been to a Poetry Slam because they take place on Friday nights and people are usually busy, so the fact that they volunteer their time is huge. Ms. Morgan asked what Dustin's role is during the event. Ms. deJong responded that Dustin emcees, makes participants feel comfortable, and reads a poem back to people that relates to their work. Ms. Morgan asked Ms. deJong to break down the cost. Ms. deJong said that \$75 would be for Dustin's services, and \$125 would be for WHAM. Ms. Morgan asked how it costs \$125 to run the facility for one night. Ms. Mielt said that through her experience working in a gallery, she understands how much work is involved in setting up even for one event. She asked how much the fee for the AZ Humanities Speaker series is, for comparison. Ms. deJong said that each lecture costs \$100. Ms. Morgan said that the fee usually covers travel costs, especially for speakers coming in from a distance.

Ms. Mielt shared her excitement about the Poetry Slam and felt that it was part of a grassroots movement, and that there is no event like this happening elsewhere in the West Valley. Ms. deJong agreed and said that this event is unlike others, and that it should keep going.

Ms. Osborne said that if everyone was in agreement to pursue this request, she would follow up with the appropriate departments, and reach out to Connie from WHAM to set up an agreement. The commission agreed.

Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to the procurement of services to replicate a painting of Lizard Acres for the City's permanent art collection.

Chair Lieu turned it over to Ms. deJong to report out her findings after discussing with Joe Tyler.

Ms. deJong reported that she had some great conversations with Mr. Tyler and how he came into possession of the painting. Ultimately, the property depicted in the painting is formerly Sun City West and Sun City Grand, but it is Surprise. Additionally, it covers part of the OTS, which is an area that she feels the commission needs to be more mindful of. She said that Mr. Tyler was ready to loan the painting to the city to make a copy. Chair Lieu said that the interesting thing about preserving this piece is that being the arts and cultural advisory commission, one of the main tasks is to preserve the city's culture. Her concern was that if it becomes lost or gets thrown away, no one would ever know about it. Ms. deJong said that the commission could hang the replication in their Mobile Museum tent for people to see.

Ms. Morgan asked whether the artist was still alive or had any living family members. Ms. deJong said that there were no living relatives. Ms. Osborne said that she followed up with the City Attorney's Office, and that there are some copyright issues at play. In summary, she said that unless there is a next of kin available to give written permission to replicate the painting, the commission cannot move forward with this request. Mr. Tyler owns the

painting, but not the copyright since he is not the original artist. Ms. Morgan said that she was under the belief that one could reproduce another person's piece of art as long as the art was not signed or otherwise notated. She cited examples of famous works of art being replicated and displayed in museums or sold to patrons. Ms. Osborne asked whether there was possibly an estate handling the copyrights for those famous pieces of art, to which Ms. Morgan said that there were not. She elaborated and said 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 suggested that there may be a difference between privately displaying a replica versus commercial use. She suggested that if Mr. Tyler donated the original to the city, and kept the copy for his personal use, there may be an exception. Ms. Morgan said that she has previously contacted a company which replicated paintings for all sorts of uses. She asked that the City Attorney's Office follow up on this additional information.

Ms. Miett suggested creating a video to tell the story of Lizard Acres. Mr. Lickus said that he was able to find a photograph of the Lizard Acres property online. Ms. Miett felt that the story behind the property was important. Mr. Lickus said that he just finished a book called Vulture Road, which mentions the Lizard Acres property.

Ms. Morgan repeated what she felt the exceptions were. Ms. Osborne said that she would follow up.

Item 4 – Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the schedule and costs of the AZ Humanities Speaker Series for 2020-2021.

Ms. Morgan said that in a typical year, AZ Humanities offers the ability to have five speakers, and each comes with a \$100 cost. For now, there are only two scheduled to see if the format works and if there is a good response to hosting them virtually. She said that should the first two be successful, the last three would be scheduled.

Chair Lieu clarified what the action was. Ms. Osborne said that the schedule was discussed at the last meeting, but the requested action on the agenda is to approve funds.

Ms. Morgan noted that the first speaker, Jim Turner, recently did a live presentation and it went well. This time, the plan is that the show will be packaged as a video. AZ Humanities is still debating whether to pre-record the video or stream it live from Phoenix. Ms. Morgan wants to be sure that the city can attract an audience for this event and see that it is worth the effort. For now, she said that the city could publicize first two speakers.

Ms. Miett moved to approve the recommended schedule for the AZ Humanities Speaker Series for Fiscal Year 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$500. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carries.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- BacPac
- WVAC Video
- Display Cases
- Vision & Sound
- Dysart Arts Festival
- Development Center Bench

Mobile Museum – Ms. Morgan said that if the working group needs the tent set up to help them plan the newest display, they would let Ms. Osborne know.
Poetry Slam funding

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:03 p.m. – Ms. deJong, 2nd by Ms. Morgan. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Margaret Lieu, Chair

ATTEST:

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 October 5, 2020.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst