

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

September 14, 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, Crystal Miller, Jay Lickus.

Absent: Commission member, Crystal Miller (excused).

Staff: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst, Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Director.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu took a moment to thank Paul Bernardo for his services with the arts commission.

Ms. Miett went on a trip to Pensacola and enjoyed the public art, specifically a series of 3-4 foot tall pelican statues that start out white, and businesses and organizations paint them differently to represent different things. She felt that they were fun to find, and brought color to the city. In Carrollton, Georgia, a similar series depicting their wolf mascot was on display. Ms. Miett shared that she also attended a Theater Works performance, and felt that they reinvented the wheel for performances in the COVID age, which has allowed people to perform.

Ms. deJong took part in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day planning committee and visited WHAM to view an exhibit. She also viewed a virtual AZ Humanities poetry program, which showcased a poet talking about poetry that builds community. Ms. deJong also attended Poetry Slam planning meetings. She thanked Ms. Miett for making the commission aware of the Theater Works show, which she attended and thought was wonderful. She felt that even if the format remained the same after things improve, it would be a great show.

Ms. Morgan did some planning in relation to the AZ Humanities virtual program and said that she would report out later in the meeting.

Mr. Lickus met with Chair Lieu to review what the commission does and how it is moving forward. He shared that he read some of the commission's documents, including the entire master plan. He also viewed the Scottsdale art tours online and found them very interesting. He commented on the upcoming Canal Convergence event and said that he likes what

Scottsdale is doing with art. He also shared that he started a conversation with an international artist whose work he would love to see in Surprise. He also attended the Theater Works production, which he felt was nicely done, was cognizant of social distancing, and was well integrated into the current pandemic.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Mr. Bernardo is no longer with the city; however Mr. Dyson and the HSCV Department are providing support to commission efforts.
- Fire Station 308 panel meetings have kicked off and we are very close to finalizing an RFP for distribution.
- Status update on PWOFF art – staff are assisting the design firm with some permit holdups. Once the construction begins, it will take place relatively quickly.
- Meetings will be re-opened to the public beginning tomorrow, September 15th. Next Arts Commission meeting will take place in the Council Overflow Room due to elections.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the August 3, 2020 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Ms. Miett moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). Motion carried.

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

Chair Lieu introduced BacPac for her presentation.

BacPac introduced herself and thanked the commission for the opportunity to work on the Aquatic Center. She shared a presentation and showed her concept art versus the final product in order to demonstrate the difference in the outcome.

She then introduced her proposal for the other side of the entrance of the Aquatic Center. Her first proposal included sea turtles, which she described as fun, playful, and appealing to kids. Through the course of her presentation, she shared some reference photos, which included more sea turtles and dolphins. An additional proposal showcased babies swimming, including a baby photo which BacPac sourced from a famous Nirvana album cover.

She shared another proposal for the Hollyhock Pool, which consisted of more sea turtles. She felt that it had a big, blank wall that was begging for some art. She suggested that sessions could be held where a limited number of people could watch her in action, but it would all depend on the status of the pandemic. In addition, she shared the cost proposal.

Chair Lieu said that she appreciated the Nirvana reference of the baby photo. She thanked BacPac for coming to the commission and sharing these ideas. She said that the idea of having a finished version of the Aquatic Center is exciting.

BacPac said that having art adds to the value of a community, and murals in particular help to prevent vandalism. She stated that she has plenty of ideas for art in Surprise. She mentioned an idea for a baseball-themed mural across from the stadium and plans to propose it later on down the road.

Ms. deJong said that there is a piece of art on the state art list that helps curb vandalism in the OTS. It hasn't been vandalized much since it got installed. She expects BacPac's murals to do the same.

Ms. Miett thanked BacPac for working in 115 degree heat. She clarified the quote and whether it pertained to the Hollyhock proposal. BacPac said that a mural on the Hollyhock Pool would be a separate quote.

Ms. Morgan asked about wrapping around the Aquatic Center wall onto the piece that faces Bullard, possibly a continuation that spans around the side and all the way across the front. BacPac said that she would be happy to bring a proposal forward.

Chair Lieu suggested coming back with two proposals for the commission to consider. Ms. Osborne said that she would like to work with staff at the same time so that the commission could be well-informed by their next discussion. BacPac and the commission agreed.

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

Chair Lieu introduced Sandra Bassett for this presentation. Ms. Bassett provided a summary of the video the commission was about to view. She reminded the commission that the video could still be edited. She added that the video would be gifted to the city as a token of appreciation for the city's support.

Ms. Bassett previewed the first 3 minutes of the video for the commission. She further elaborated on the interviews that take place through the course of the videos. She said that they would need the city's logo if the commission elected to continue with the video.

Ms. Morgan said that the video is definitely is a gift. Anything that can be offered in addition to existing offerings is a bonus. She commented on a few technical points that she noticed and would like to see revised.

Chair Lieu clarified whether the video was only for the possibilities or if the script and video had an opportunity to change. Ms. Bassett said that they were open to changes.

Ms. deJong said that she appreciated the video because it would make the gallery available to people who could not view it, especially in light of COVID-19. The gallery was installed and then two weeks later shut down. She commented that the gallery theme was not Women's Suffrage, but rather "Color, Color, Color." Ms. Bassett said that the information she provided showed otherwise, but that she would review and adjust as needed.

Ms. Miett asked about the cost for videos of this type. Ms. Bassett said that it would cost anywhere from \$500 - \$750 per video due to the editing and labor associated.

Ms. Morgan said that one of the strengths of the video was that the artists are so diverse in personality and style. Ms. Bassett gave credit to Ms. deJong for selecting those artists.

Chair Lieu loved the intro of walking into the city gallery and seeing the installation in progress because not many people know how much work goes into that. Ms. Bassett felt that it was an important point to highlight. Ms. Bassett further stated that this video was an important priority for her because WVAC could bring the gallery to those who could not view it. Vice-Chair Welch thought it was an amazing idea and thought about including the Charter School exhibit in this process.

Chair Lieu suggested forming a panel for this video. Ms. Osborne clarified whether one was necessary in light of all of the feedback gathered. Chair Lieu said that the panel could help with finalizing a script and acknowledging the partnership with WVAC.

Mr. Lickus suggested wearing masks in the video. Ms. Bassett said that at the time, city hall was closed and the public was not allowed in. She said that they could look to include a disclaimer indicating such in the video.

Ms. Osborne said that she would schedule a panel to review the video and provide final feedback to Ms. Bassett. Ms. deJong, Ms. Morgan, and Mr. Lickus volunteered to serve on the panel.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to a Gallery 37 partnership with the Water Resource Management Department and the West Valley Arts Council, related to the Xeriscape Garden at City Hall.

Chair Lieu introduced the project. Ms. Bassett said that WVAC provided the timeline to Water Resource Management (WRM). WVAC will be on-target to complete the project in conjunction with the construction.

Ms. Miett reiterated that the City of Surprise does not currently have a Gallery 37 project, aside from one that was completed privately by DMB in Marley Park. The City of Glendale is the only other city in the West Valley that does not have one. She further reiterated that it is a fantastic program for these teenagers. Ms. deJong agreed that the commission should be participating.

Ms. Bassett outlined the process. She suggested a conversation with WRM to determine what the available locations and possibilities are for this project. She also said that she could share previous projects with the commission. She said that with the city of Avondale, they have done extensions where pieces are added on in future years or later in the year, not just the summer.

Chair Lieu said that based on the landscape site plan, there is a possibility to paint a mural on a 3D piece. She said that the only limitation was the budget, and that the commission would need to decide how much to allocate for the project, potentially seeking more funds from Council. Ms. Osborne said that we should consider the budget before asking Council for additional funds.

Ms. Bassett suggested some art opportunities once the renovation of the Xeriscape Garden and Arts HQ is completed.

Item 5 – Discussion and action pertaining to recommendation to City Council of an artist for art at the Public Safety Evidence and Readiness Center and Police Training facilities.

Ms. Osborne overviewed the item by showing a PowerPoint which she intended to use for a presentation to the City Council, should the item be approved. She provided an overview of the project site, which would house the new Public Safety Evidence and Readiness Center, as well as the new Police Training Facility. She said that due to the constraints presented by the nature of the facility, the art would need to be incorporated into the security wall built on the perimeter of the site. The work would need to be secure, and not attract visitors to view it up close or try to scale the wall. The theme of the wall would be a garden scene or wildflowers, to provide some distinction from the typical desert scene depicted around the state. Ms. Osborne provided a summary of the artist, Steven Weitzman, as well as some examples of his work. He is a nationally acclaimed artist with works spanning various mediums and sited around the country, including a prominent piece in the U.S. Capitol Building. Due to Mr. Weitzman's extensive experience with public art and the aesthetic treatment of transportation infrastructure projects, he seemed like the perfect fit for this project.

Ms. Morgan reiterated the point that the panel was very limited on their options for this project. Vice-Chair Welch and Ms. Mielt each agreed, saying that given the narrow scope of the project, Mr. Weitzman's resume provided the perfect skill set to achieve what was needed. Ms. deJong clarified the budget source. Ms. Osborne said that there were two projects being constructed in the same site, therefore the funds would be pooled together in order to fund this one art piece which would encompass both buildings. Chair Lieu asked one of the panelists to volunteer to be present at the council meeting to field questions and assist with the presentation. Ms. Mielt said that she would be in attendance.

Vice-Chair Welch moved to recommend approval to City Council of the artist Steven Weitzman to collaborate on an original piece of art at the site of the new Public Safety facilities. Ms. deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). Motion carries.

Item 6 – Discussion pertaining to a grants program through the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission.

Ms. Osborne introduced this item and said that Mr. Dyson would be available for discussion. She summarized that the commission has inquired about administering grants to local non-profit art organizations, to allow an opportunity from them that would be separate from the city's Community Outreach Program. Given previous attempts to request additional funds for this effort, Ms. Osborne recommended the commission begin with a \$10,000 amount, to be allocated from their existing budget. If the program was successful, the commission could then demonstrate the need for additional funds. She invited Mr. Dyson to discuss the existing grants administration process and how this new grant could be integrated.

Mr. Dyson said that Council has previously set the parameters for the SCOP grants. The Human Service & Community Vitality Department could support this new effort if the commission wanted to pursue it. His staff is already acquainted with the process, so it would be a matter of tailoring the application to fit the criteria set by the commission.

Ms. Morgan said that there was a grant process set up previously, but she was disappointed in it. She then asked whether the commission could ask for more funds rather than taking it out of the existing budget. Ms. Osborne said that given the commission's previous attempts at seeking additional funds, it would be advantageous to demonstrate the success of the program, and then pursue additional funds. Ms. Morgan further commented that the artists like the funding, but not the business aspect, and that the involvement by the artist groups was pretty loose. From her experience, there were not many robust applications, and she recalled having issues with follow-up from the artists.

Mr. Dyson added that for context, the SCOP grant process recently closed and resulted in a 5 ½ hour meeting with 36 applications. The committee had a difficult time choosing, but among the applications, there was plenty of interest from art organizations. He added that HSCV staff collects the applications and determines whether they meet the necessary criteria. If they don't have a complete application, they do not make it to the next phase of the process. Some of the requirements for grantees include quarterly reports, check-ins, and status updates. The grantees are required to pay their costs up front, and upon satisfaction of the requirements, the city reimburses them. All of this demonstrates the existing structure that is in place. Ultimately, he said that the commission can choose whether to spend the money or not.

Chair Lieu suggested limiting the awards to operating grants, especially in light of COVID-19. She felt that there would be less likelihood of seeing events for a while, and that if the commission is looking to support local non-profits, this would be the easiest way to do so. Ms. Miett concurred.

Ms. Osborne said that she would need to take the feedback provided and review this process internally before bringing it back to the commission. This would include input from the City Attorney's Office, as well as potentially a draft application.

Item 7 – Discussion and action pertaining to the procurement of services to replicate a painting of Lizard Acres for the City's permanent art collection.

Chair Lieu turned the item over to Ms. deJong for discussion. Ms. deJong said that the painting of the property formerly known as Lizard Acres is currently on loan to the city from artist Joe Tyler, and is being displayed on the first floor of city hall near the staircase. Because it is a piece of history, she thinks that it would be appropriate to replicate it and retain a copy for the city's archive. Mr. Tyler has given verbal permission for the city to do so.

Ms. Miett asked about the intention for displaying the replicated painting. Ms. deJong said that it could go on display in the gallery or in the Mobile Museum. Ms. Miett asked where Lizard Acres is or was, to which Ms. deJong said that it was a piece of land on what is now Sun City West. Ms. Miett expressed opposition to spending money towards a piece of art that didn't portray land now belonging to Surprise. Ms. Morgan concurred with the sentiment. Ms. deJong said that part of the property now belongs to Surprise. Vice-Chair Welch performed a quick search and found that the Lizard Acres property was a train stop near present day Grand Avenue and Bell Road, which was also a cattle farm in the early 1960's.

Ms. Miett again questioned the use of the replicated painting. Chair Lieu said that as the commission, she felt it was part of their duty to preserve this piece of history. Ms. Morgan

asked whether the artist had granted permission to replicate the artwork. Ms. deJong said that the artist was deceased, but the owner, Mr. Tyler, had given permission. Ms. Miett asked how the commission could proceed, to which Ms. Osborne stated that some type of agreement would need to be drafted, but her greater concern was with whether any artist rights would be violated. She would ask the City Attorney's Office to weigh in. Vice-Chair Welch noted the difference between replicating a piece of art for personal use versus public use. Ms. Morgan said that she did not feel comfortable with proceeding without the advisement of the legal department, especially if there were rights that could potentially be violated. Ms. deJong said that she would look into whether the artist or their family was still around, so that they could inquire with them.

Item 8 – Discussion and action pertaining to the purchase of supplemental materials for the Public Art Maps.

Ms. Osborne shared some supplemental cards that could be attached to the existing public art maps in lieu of purchasing new ones for the year. The commission previously inquired about how best to showcase the most recently added pieces without ordering a new set of maps. Ms. Osborne tasked the city's graphic designer with researching possible solutions, and this was the most practical and cost-effective option. Various commissioners expressed their appreciation of the solution.

Ms. Miett moved to approve the purchase and printing of the supplemental materials for the public art maps at a cost not to exceed \$100.00. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). Motion carries.

Item 9 – Discussion pertaining to upcoming arts and cultural events and activities.

Chair Lieu introduced the item and asked for a status update on city events. Ms. Osborne reported that due to the lead time and logistics that would be necessary for planning city events, all fall events will be virtual, and no third-party events have been booked aside from tournaments. As the commission is an extension of the city, they must follow the precedent that has been set, therefore no in-person events will be permitted until conditions improve. She said that the city is taking the approach of looking to January to begin scheduling events. She shared that various commissioners have been coordinating with her regarding certain events, most specifically the AZ Humanities, which is offering virtual lectures, and the Poetry Slam.

Ms. Morgan shared that the Thunderbird Artists group have canceled all of their events for the remainder of 2020, but have the Surprise Art & Wine Festival listed as a potential event for January 2021, but she was not sure whether the city had committed to the event yet. Regarding the AZ Humanities lecture series, Ms. Morgan has scheduled two performances; January 20th with Jim Turner: The Lives of Arizonans from Memoirs and Fiction, and February 23rd Carrie Cannon: The Love of Turquoise. Both speakers have said that regardless of whatever guidelines are in place at the time, they would be presenting virtually. AZ Humanities provides everything including the Zoom link and training on how to operate the meeting virtually. She said that because the organization is hosting the meeting, it lessens the possibility of a Zoom hack.

Ms. Osborne further elaborated that if a person wanted to participate, they would be directed to the AZ Humanities site, and the organization would provide them with the means to register, save the date, and access the meeting. All of this would be separate from the city's

website. The city would include a disclaimer letting visitors know that they are leaving the city's website. All of these services would be provided at the same cost as what was previously paid. The speakers' presentations are pre-recorded, and the Q&A portion is live.

Ms. Miett asked if AZ Humanities would provide registrant data to the city so that they could see who is attending. Vice-Chair Welch agreed that it would help with the initiative the commission had to keep track of attendance.

Chair Lieu said that the Poetry Slam is being planned as a hybrid in-person/Zoom event. It would not be an official arts commission event and would be called "The Underground Poetry Reading." The panel met and are attempting to replicate the Poetry Slam's schedule to lessen confusion. Due to a portion of the event being in-person, the city and the arts commission cannot endorse it. Ms. Osborne agreed and added that the AZ Humanities establishes an agreement with the city for each performance, and the city pays for the services that are provided. She said that she preferred to use WebEx due to it being an established practice with the city, but AZ Humanities does not license or loan their videos, and the only option available was to use their services. Ms. Morgan said that with people being familiar with Zoom, it is easier than them having to learn how to use a new application such as WebEx.

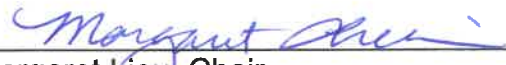
Ms. Miett clarified whether events were cancelled out to Christmas. Ms. Osborne reiterated that events which required advanced planning and agreements were cancelled, but deferred to a recent press release for more details. Ms. Miett explored an opportunity to partner with the Parks & Recreation Commission to do a virtual tree lighting with art components, if both commissions were open to it. Chair Lieu asked if events like the Poetry Slam could continue if restrictions were lifted. Ms. Osborne said that it would all depend on guidelines in place at the time in question. She added that she did not want to speak on behalf of the city and say that everything was canceled, but there were more than likely virtual events in the works for major holidays such as Christmas, but because she is not involved in the planning, she could not speak to the details of these events. Chair Lieu asked whether a re-opening of City Hall would allow for events such as the Poetry Slam to resume in-person meetings. Ms. Osborne said that it would again depend on the guidelines in place at the time.

Chair Lieu asked Ms. deJong about the public art tours. Ms. deJong said that she had planned some mini tours, but since the city could not advertise or endorse them, and with city hall being closed, they would need to be cancelled. Chair Lieu asked about setting up a digital driving tour, to which Ms. Osborne said that there was something to that effect already available on the city website. She elaborated that it has pictures of the various pieces, the address of the location, artist's names, and a brief description of the piece. She added that she had organized for a press release back when the pandemic initially set in. Additionally, the physical art maps are still available at various locations throughout the city.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Lizard Acres
- Grants program
- WVAC video
- Mural
- Poetry Slam funding
- AZ Humanities funding

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 8:10 p.m. – Ms. deJong, 2nd by Ms. Mielt. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). 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 September 14, 2020.


Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst

