CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – Approved

May 18, 2020 / 4:30 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. (1 Vacancy)

Staff: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst, Amy Peterson, Water Conservation Specialist, Robert Wingo, City Attorney.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

C. **Current Events Reports**

Chair Lieu began to read a statement into the record, however City Attorney Wingo felt that it did not fall under the criteria for Current Events and Reports and asked that it not be further discussed. Chair Lieu said that she noticed the restoration work done on the library mural, and thanked the artist for their work.

Ms. Miett had similar comments about the library mural.

Ms. Morgan said that she and Ms. deJong undertook a conversation exploring the future of the city hall exhibition and other events that they each host or chair.

D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- "Reflections of Surprise" restoration has been completed.
- "History Wall" timeline has been complete. Looking at a potential unveiling later this year, depending on the state of affairs and COVID-19.
- Budget update – FY21 budget recommended by City Manager was same as FY20 budget. All additional requests/packages were presented as contingency options, meaning that staff will request packages for individual approval by Council. Final budget adoption scheduled for June 2nd Council meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Skip Hall – Applauded Chair Lieu for her recent report to City Council on a certain commissioner's behavior and said that it was very much appreciated. He also commended everyone for their effort advancing art and said that the work has not gone unnoticed.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Discussion and action pertaining to the recommended 1.3% for the Arts-funded project, to be installed at the site of the new Fire Station 304 facility.

Chair Lieu provided an overview of the panel, sharing that it consisted of herself, Susan deJong, and Deborah welch, along with Guylene Ozlanski from the City of Goodyear, and Chief Espie.

They discussed creating a space in front of the Fire Station that would be inviting, and celebrate firefighter history. The panel received a proposal from Logan Simpson, which is the same company responsible for the artwork at the Public Works Operations Facility. After some discussion and budget considerations, the proposal presented in the agenda packet is where they landed. Therefore, Chair Lieu stated that the panel was coming forward to the commission for approval and recommendation of the design to the City Council.

Ms. deJong clarified a request that the panel had for the designers, to which Ms. Osborne confirmed that it would be honored.

Ms. Miett moved to recommend the proposed design to be installed at the site of Fire Station 304 at a cost not-to-exceed $112,800. Ms. deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Presentation and action pertaining to the selection of a mural at the Aquatic Center.

Ms. Osborne introduced the item, and reviewed the history of the inception of the mural project. She described how the city sent out a survey to the public and asked for their help in choosing their favorite design. Finally, she outlined next steps towards procurement of the artist's services, which were to include approval by the commission, followed by final City Council approval.

Chair Lieu said that she read through some of the comments and loved them, but was also surprised by the winner. Ms. Miett thanked the Marketing & Communications for their work in sharing the survey with the public and gathering feedback. Ms. deJong said that she felt that there was a clear choice on the public's side. Ms. Morgan agreed that the dolphin mural was the clear choice. She liked the shark mural, but did not want to choose something that drew any tentative comment. She was not surprised by the choice, and was personally pleased. Ms. Miller loved the dolphin mural, and enjoyed reading the comments. She reminded the commission of their discussion regarding the addition of the swim team logo to the swimsuit depicted in the mural. Chair Lieu was concerned that adding a team logo to the swimsuit may read more like a school team than a public team. Ms. Osborne suggested pulling a panel together to work on the final touches. Vice-Chair Welch, Ms. Morgan, and Ms. Miett volunteered to participate on the panel.

Ms. Morgan moved to approve the proposed mural Swimming with Porpoise at a cost not-to-exceed $8,500.00. Ms. Miett 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Vacancy. Motion carried.

Item 3 – <u>Presentation and action discussion with new West Valley Arts Council President & CEO Sandra Bassett.</u>

Ms. Osborne the item and turned it over to West Valley Arts Council (WVAC) Chair Kathy Knecht. Ms. Knecht introduced Sandra Basset, who was selected to lead WVAC in their continued partnership with West Valley artists and cities. She also introduced Melody Kokora, who administers WVAC's programs.

Ms. Bassett shared a presentation with the commission which highlighted all of the programs that WVAC puts on or assists with through partnerships, including Lunchtime Theater, the Arts Advantage program, and the Gallery 37 program.

Ms. Bassett turned the presentation over to Ms. Kokora who discussed the Gallery 37 program at length. She said that the WVAC's mission is to engage the younger generation and give them vital job skills. She described the process, wherein WVAC hires students to create art for a different city each year and gain free college credit. She explained that this year's project will be with the City of Avondale, and that they will hire 15 teens to work with a Master artist. She discussed the origins of the program in Chicago, and how it has been taken all over the West Valley for the past 20 years. She shared that WVAC won a Governor's Art Award in 2012-13 for the City of Tolleson's Paseo de Luces project. She further shared that the 2020 project would be conducted on an online platform. Ms. Bassett said that for the 2021 project, WVAC would be doing their Gallery 37 project through the new Xeriscape Garden. She also shared some of the awards that the organization has won in the past. She encouraged the commission to come to them for any potential partnership opportunities, and said that she would do the same.

Chair Lieu asked whether WVAC was engaging the charter schools in addition to the school district, to which Ms. Bassett responded that they were. Ms. Miett expressed her appreciation of the Gallery 37 program. Ms. Osborne invited Amy Peterson to the podium to discuss a potential partnership on the Xeriscape Garden/Gallery 37 program for 2021. Ms. Peterson pulled up a site plan of the garden and shared potential locations for art within. She shared that the vision is to create a community park that would be managed by the WRM Department and would highlight and educate about drought-tolerant plants and gardens. She would like to partner with WVAC to bring in Surprise youth who would then design art for installation and integration into the garden. It could be a mural, mosaic, sandblasting design, or sculptures.

Chair Lieu asked about the timeline of the project. Ms. Peterson said that they were hoping to break ground on the project by the end of the summer. She said that they were hoping to finish phase 1 by the end of the year. Chair Lieu asked what the overall finish line was, to which Ms. Peterson said that it was fluid due to the economic situation nationwide. Chair Lieu also asked when the commission should become involved, to which Ms. Peterson said that the commission should become involved once the garden is complete. She said that WRM would likely meet with the commission again in January 2021. Ms. deJong asked where the construction would begin, but Ms. Peterson said that there was not much certainty at this point, as details are still being worked out. Vice-Chair Welch asked about funding for the art, and whether the grant funds would support that. Ms. Peterson responded that art was not part of the scope of the grant funds, and that they would be looking to secure art funding in other ways.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to upcoming arts & cultural events and activities.

Chair Lieu introduced the final item, stating that the group should start the conversation about the future of the city's arts programming in light of the pandemic. She turned it over to Ms. deJong, who was pulling together the city's art calendar. She said that there were people interested in doing Lunchtime Theater, however possibly not until 2021. She said she has also been thinking of ways to change the bus tours, such as removing the bus and making the groups smaller and more local. She felt that all of the activities could be modified, hence the need for the conversation.

Ms. Morgan wondered what the best approach would be, and felt that it would be difficult to plan things considering the unknowns of the time. She suggested revisiting the discussion in August, when there may be more clear direction. She felt that a master calendar should not be posted, but rather individual event flyers distributed to allow for the commission to plan as they go. She did not want to continue booking people, only to have to cancel them. She felt that a more localized approach would be better than a broad approach. Ms. Miett agreed and asked whether organizations such as the AZ Humanities would be offering alternative options. Ms. Morgan said that questions like these warrant further discussion. Ms. deJong agreed. Ms. Miett said that they should follow the lead of the city in releasing events a bit at a time in order to adhere to national guidelines. Vice-Chair Welch asked whether a working group would be appropriate for this task.

Ms. Morgan asked what the city's position was in terms of events. Ms. Osborne said that the city released a phased reopening plan, which was mostly based on Governor Ducey's reopening guidelines and follows the case rates. She said that for the time being, the city is looking forward to Fall programming, but due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, it may be subject to change. Ms. Osborne suggested that the group continue to plan events and re-evaluate as the event dates approach. Chair Lieu felt that technology could be utilized to continue the programs. Ms. Osborne said that while she would inquire about digitizing programs, this may also be an opportunity for the commission to shift their focus to physical art pieces and growing the city's art collection in the meantime.

Ms. Morgan thought about re-structuring the event formats, or looking into new events on a trial period. Chair Lieu asked about putting on events if state guidelines were adhered to, but Ms. Osborne responded that shifting to an online platform would be ideal, as opposed to opening events that normally do not have registrations or reservations, and having to turn people away due to capacity limits. She said that online capabilities would be largely determined by staff workloads. Ms. Morgan agreed that registrations would be needed for in-person events, and that the logistics needed to be further discussed. Ms. Miett pointed out that live broadcasts could lead to issues if not closely monitored.

Ms. Osborne said that she would be happy to facilitate a working group to address these issues if needed. Ms. Morgan brought up another point regarding the enforcement of wearing masks, as well as other safety concerns. Chair Lieu asked what a working group would look like, since there are different commissioners dedicated to different events. Ms. Morgan felt that the events should be reviewed individually, and then brought forth to the full commission. Chair Lieu asked that anyone with ideas for new events come forward so that they could be vetted and tested during this down period.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

Upcoming Events
FY21 Budget
Mobile Museum
Gallery 37

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:15 p.m. – Ms. deJong, 2nd by Ms. Miller. 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 special meeting held on May 18, 2020.

D Osborne

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst