

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

March 2, 2020 / 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS 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, Jack Hastings, Rhiannon Miett, Crystal Miller.

Staff: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu attended the Poetry Slam which was to capacity and saw about 12 presenters, including a nine-year-old girl who recited a sonnet from memory, and some new participants. Chair Lieu congratulated WHAM on their nomination once again for the Governor's Arts Awards. Bernadette Mills of West Valley Arts Council has taken a new job, and a replacement Executive Director is incoming. Chair Lieu and Ms. deJong visited Joe Tyler's studio to select art pieces which have been placed around City Hall. A meeting regarding art at FS 304 was held, Logan Simpson is the firm that will be selected for the art and a subsequent meeting is planned to review their revised proposal based on the panel's feedback.

Ms. Miller attended a Dysart Unified School District bond meeting. She had also been planning to take a trip, but it was canceled due to the rain. She will go instead this weekend and is planning a hike in Yarnell.

Ms. Morgan participated in the bookmark contest judging. She also attended the Sunset Theater performance of the Three Sopranos as well as the Speaker Series. She shared that her birthday was last week.

Ms. deJong participated in the FS 304 art working group, as well as the bookmark contest judging, and Sunset Theater. She also attended a performance by the West Valley Symphony, and went to Joe Tyler's house to select pieces for display at City Hall. She met Mr. Tyler today at City Hall to set up the pieces for display. The Lunchtime Theater Jam Session was sold out, and the Poetry Slam was fabulous and drew a diverse crowd. She attended the AZ Humanities series, and she assisted with the Vision & Sound field trips through DUSD. Ms. deJong gave a special thank you to Mr. Bernardo and Ms. Osborne for assisting with the hanging of the bunting for the baseball exhibition.

Vice-Chair Welch participated in the bookmark contest judging. She attended the AZ Humanities Speaker Series and found it very interesting. She pointed out that a number of people were unable to find the Chambers, and suggested possibly setting up a sign for the event. She also participated in the FS 304 art working group meeting. Finally, she did an interview with Surprise Independent reporter Jason Stone regarding the Women's Heritage Trail event.

Mr. Hastings worked at the Surprise Community Garden for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. He also visited the Sharlot Hall museum in Prescott during a recent trip.

Ms. Miett visited Cave Creek and stumbled across the Carefree Thunderbird Festival for the Arts, and enjoyed seeing the arts everywhere. She shared that Chris Hamby, the Artistic Director for Theater Works was named as a finalist for the Governor's Arts Awards. She also shared that she will be a Community Engagement Manager for a new community, Alamar, which is designing each of their community parks to accommodate a piece of art. They are hiring local Arizona artists and will be working with the City to implement that art.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Modifications to the landscaping at "The Learning Tree" are complete.
- Library mural restoration work scheduled during the week of March 17th.
- History Wall installation/work begins this week. The Mayor's Atrium will begin to look very different very soon.
- Bookmark contest winners awarded tomorrow at Council meeting during CM report.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

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

Ms. Morgan requested that her current events report be reviewed for accuracy and revised if necessary.

Vice-Chair Welch moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. deJong 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Discussion pertaining to the Dysart Festival of the Arts on March 28, 2020.

Danae Marinelli, Director of Arts for the Dysart Unified School District shared a presentation regarding the upcoming Dysart Festival of the Arts, and potential opportunities for partnership with the commission.

This year's festival will take place on March 28th 10am – 2pm. Last year's event was very successful, and we expect even more to be in attendance this year. The main stage at the Vista will have a dance concert with students from all four high schools, as well as choir

performances from students of all grade levels. In the grassy area, an art teacher will be leading students in creating a giant mural. Outside performances will also include high school show choirs, elementary choirs, band, jazz band, and theater performances. Indoor performances will include winter guard, dance teams, and a drumline competition. In addition, nearly 100 vendors will be participating.

Ms. Marinelli shared photos from the previous year, which included a chalk exhibition. She also shared a list of vendor tables and food trucks which have signed up for the event. They will hold an instrument drive once again since it was so successful last year. West Valley Arts Council will be participating, and there will be a separate area for younger children to complete an activity. There will also be community partner booths, of which a 10x10 space was offered to the commission. Ms. Marinelli shared links to the website for the event, hard copies of the flyers, and information about event sponsorship.

Chair Lieu asked whether Ms. Marinelli had reached out to the Friends of the Surprise Library, since they could promote literacy. Ms. deJong said that the commission has a 10x20 tent to display at the event. Ms. Marinelli said that they would accommodate the space. Chair Lieu said that if the commission is approached at a sooner date next year, they will be able to assist with community partnerships. Ms. Miett suggested partnering with the art groups in Sun City Grand, to expose other forms of art such as quilting. Chair Lieu suggested reaching out to Wildlife World Zoo and Fallen Feathers for additional activities. Additional private art businesses around the city were suggested for participation.

The commission thanked Ms. Marinelli for her presentation. Ms. Osborne passed around a sign-up sheet for the event. Ms. Morgan suggested that moving forward, the commission ensure proper coverage before committing to event participation.

Item 3 – Presentation and action pertaining to the selection of a mural at the Aquatic Center by artist BacPac.

Chair Lieu introduced artist BacPac and asked her to discuss her proposals with the commission.

BacPac shared a PowerPoint presentation and explained that she had three proposals, all of which mirror her style of realism, incorporated with a bit of humor. The first was "Walking the Shark." She showed the references she used and discussed the colors that she would be using. The second proposal was titled "Swimming with Dolphins." The final proposal was titled "Swimming with Porpoise." She explained what her approach to the painting would be, and explained that the wayfinding letters on the building would be masked off and not painted over.

BacPac shared that she would like to receive specific directions from the commission, down to details such as the ethnicity of the person depicted in the mural. She shared previous approaches to similar projects. Ms. Miett suggested incorporating a swordfish into the mural somehow to represent the Surprise Swordfish swim team. Chair Lieu suggested incorporating the logo onto the swimsuit instead. Mr. Hastings explained that the city has three separate swim clubs; one competitive (Surprise Storm), and two recreational (Surprise Swordfish and Surprise Tsunami). Ms. deJong expressed concern about depicting one swim team and not the others.

BacPac explained the project estimate and how she arrived at the price, including her artist fee, materials, paint, and storage costs. Ms. Miett asked whether it would be ok or appropriate to advertise that she would be painting a mural, so that people could potentially stop by to watch. BacPac discussed the times and days that she would be performing her work. She said that her fee would remain the same regardless of whether she takes longer than anticipated to finish the project.

Chair Lieu asked whether BacPac could add a harness to the "Walking the Shark" concept to make it more clear. Ms. Morgan said that she is concerned that some people would read into a leashed shark as a form of animal captivity. She said that while she understands and appreciates the concept, she is concerned about how the general public may perceive it. She was also concerned that it may not be interpreted as being friendly. BacPac said that she would explore ways to modify it.

Ms. Osborne asked for clarification on direction for public outreach. Ms. Miller suggested hanging the concepts on a board and holding a vote during the Dysart Festival for the Arts. Ms. Miett suggested sending a survey out to residents via email. Ms. Osborne asked whether all or only one concept would be submitted to the public for feedback, but the commission responded that they would like to have the public decide between two options – "Walking the Shark" and "Swimming with Porpoise."

Ms. Miett moved to approve an underwater mural proposal at a cost not to exceed \$8,500.00. Ms. Miller 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission.

Ms. Osborne shared that a City Council budget retreat is scheduled for March 27th at the Ottawa University Student Union, in which the Council would be conducting a detailed review of the City Manager's recommended budget and package requests. The meeting is open to the public. She further explained that the commission's package requesting additional funding for the purpose of grant distribution did not make the first cut, but the package requesting funds for an art consultant did. Chair Lieu asked what the process would be for procuring a consultant if the package is approved. Ms. Osborne explained that Mr. Bernardo had taken the lead on research into this subject and while he is not present tonight, commissioners should feel free to reach out to him with any questions they have.

Item 5 – Discussion pertaining to the re-installation of "Give Your Community a Hand" public art piece.

Ms. Osborne directed the commission to review the agenda packet to view the selected location for the re-installation of the mural. She explained that the selected wall of the Dreamcatcher Park building was the most ideal due to its size and adjacency to the Pickleball courts. She said that as long as no one objected to the location, she would seek a quote from Connie at WHAM for the work. Seeing no further discussion, the commission moved on to the next item.

Item 6 – Discussion pertaining to a reception for the current “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” exhibit in the City Hall gallery.

Ms. Osborne shared that she met with Ottawa University’s catering manager to discuss plans for this event. He would like to set up a grill in the courtyard to help attract people to the exhibition and to stick with the ballpark theme. He plans to serve hot dogs, soft pretzels, sodas, and waters at the event. Seeing no further discussion, the commission moved on to the next item.

Item 7 – Discussion pertaining to the list of events and duties for the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission.

Chair Lieu did not want to explore this discussion unless enough input could be provided. Ms. Morgan clarified that there should be discussion of both commitments to events as well as whether new approaches should be taken. Ms. Miett asked to remove events that the commission no longer participates in. Chair Lieu said that that is the purpose of the group discussion, and that if there are removed programs that a commissioner would like to see reinstated, the group could have that discussion. She also felt that there should be at least two people assigned as a lead per event, in case one person is unable to lead it. Vice-Chair Welch said that it would be helpful to have written procedures for the events. Ms. Morgan said that while the steps are there, it may be helpful to have more detailed instructions for each event, such as standard emails that are sent, steps to procure services, etc. Ms. deJong pointed to some previous work that was done in relation to all public art in the city, which she now uses during the bus tours. Ms. Morgan felt that something along the lines of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was needed.

Chair Lieu asked which events should be removed. Ms. Miett suggested the Vermillion Promotions event, but Ms. deJong said that they were rained out this year and should be given an opportunity to try it out once before removing it. Ms. Miett suggested that Surprise Party, Veterans Day, Spring Training Art Contest, and Tinker Time be removed.

Chair Lieu suggested that in lieu of Tinker Time, the commission integrate something into the Sci-Tech Festival. Ms. Morgan said that since the Sci-Tech Festival covered so much of that area, the commission should let it run without their participation. Ms. Miett suggested sponsoring a booth. Vice-Chair Welch suggested that they part from Fiesta Grande, since a number of commissioners expressed that the booth felt out of place there. Ms. deJong said that if they had been stationed closer to WHAM’s booth, they would have fared better. Chair Lieu mentioned that she attended the Parks and Rec commission meeting following the Fiesta Grande event last year and spoke up as a member of the public to provide feedback on the event.

Chair Lieu started from the top and went through each event one by one. The commission elected to skip both the Vermillion event and Surprise Party. Ms. Morgan felt that many of these events needed to be reviewed in terms of commissioner commitment, since Ms. Osborne must be committed each time the booth is set up. Mr. Hastings said that this should not matter because Ms. Osborne has to be at the events each time regardless. Ms. Osborne clarified that she was not obligated to be at the events unless the booth needed setting up. Chair Lieu suggested that they instead supply their promotional materials to the Parks & Rec Department and ask them to help share it with patrons. The commission agreed.

The group discussed the Thunderbird Artists event. Chair Lieu wanted to continue participation in this event because it was the only dedicated "Fine Arts" event that they participate in. Ms. Miatt felt that their booth did not attract enough patrons to warrant participation. Ms. deJong reminded the commission that they had discussed updating the contents of the booth, and felt that it deserved another chance. Ms. Miller felt that there needed to be more activities to attract and retain people in the booth. Vice-Chair Welch asked that the Women's Heritage Trail event be added to the list.

The commission reviewed who was dedicated for each event and revised accordingly. Chair Lieu asked each commissioner to review each of their assigned events so that they could move closer towards creating SOPs for the events.

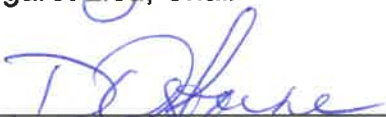
Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

Gallery 37
Hands Mural
BacPac
Mobile Museum - staging

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 8:06 p.m. – Vice-Chair Welch, 2nd by Ms. Miller. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

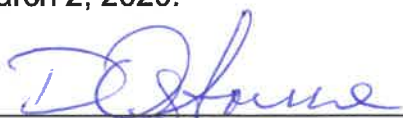

Margaret Lieu, Chair

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 March 2, 2020.


Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst