CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

June 6, 2022 / 6:00 PM

Community Room
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER:

A. **Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Kathie Morgan, commission members, Susan deJong, Margaret Lieu, Jay Lickus, Jo Grant, and Christopher Whitwell.

Absent: Chair Rhiannon Miett (excused).

Staff: Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator, Jason Moquin, Planning Manager.

Commissioner Whitwell arrived at 6:02 p.m.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

C. **Current Events Reports**

Commissioner Lickus attended the 20th anniversary celebration at the Northwest Regional Library.

Commissioner deJong attended the Joe Tyler reception, the "Cowgirl Up!" bus tour, the public art tour of City Hall, and the Poetry Slam at WHAM.

Commissioner Lieu attended both Joe Tyler receptions, the WHAM reception, the Congressional Art Awards ceremony hosted by Congresswoman Lesko, and the Poetry Slam at WHAM which had a full house.

Commissioner Whitwell attended the Joe Tyler closing reception, the 20th anniversary celebration at the Northwest Regional Library, and the public art tour of City Hall.

Vice-Chair Morgan reminded the commission that the next AZ Humanities event was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 8th from 11:00 a.m. – Noon virtually.

Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Attendance numbers for last month's events:
    - 9 participants in the May 19th Public Art Tour of City Hall
- Retreat is scheduled for next Thursday, June 16th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. An agenda will be shared later this week.

- An update item regarding “Bloom Where You’re Planted” will be included on the August agenda.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

An email from Connie Whitlock, Executive Director of WHAM, was read into the record per Connie’s request. Connie expressed displeasure with the commission’s decision not to fund WHAM’s proposal for the Arts & Culture Grant Program, and asked the commission for their support if the project were to receive funds and support from other sources.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action pertaining to the May 2, 2022 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

This item was tabled until the August 1st meeting due to a printing error.

Item 2 – Consideration and action pertaining to the City of Surprise General Plan Advisory Group.

Planning Manager Jason Moquin delivered the presentation to the commission. Mr. Moquin then asked the commission to nominate a representative and an alternate to serve on the General Plan Advisory Group.

Vice-Chair Morgan asked whether the alternate would attend the meetings alongside the representative. Mr. Moquin responded that they would only step in as needed, and that the representative may choose to keep the alternate informed throughout the process. He said that he would send the representative a background form to fill out through Ms. Osborne.

Vice-Chair Morgan inquired as to who had interest in serving as the representative. Commissioner deJong volunteered. Commissioner Whitwell volunteered to serve as an alternate. Commissioner Lieu expressed interest in serving as a representative.

Commissioner Grant moved to nominate Commissioner Lieu to join the City of Surprise General Plan Advisory Group. Commissioner Whitwell 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Commissioner Lickus moved to nominate Commissioner deJong to serve as an alternate for the City of Surprise General Plan Advisory Group. Commissioner Grant 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Mr. Moquin informed the commission that any others who are interested in serving may also apply to become a general stakeholder.

Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to the FY23 Arts & Culture Grant Program review process.

Vice-Chair Morgan asked the commissioners to identify what they liked about the process, what they didn’t care for, and their overall general thoughts.

Commissioner deJong felt that the process was much smoother because everything was discussed before the votes, which helped with allocating the funding. Commissioner Lieu felt that the criteria made it much easier to evaluate the proposals, and was easier on the applicants. Commissioner Grant liked the conditional letters of approval being required, and felt that the process was better and the rating system was easier. Commissioner deJong felt that there needed to be more clarity on the operational vs. artistic staff funding.

Commissioner Lieu wondered if there should be verbiage discouraging organizations from requesting funds from multiple city grant sources. She felt that there was potential for organizations to end up with double the funding. Commissioner Grant said that this is addressed on the application. Vice-Chair Morgan felt that it did not present a problem because it provided more opportunity. Commissioner Lieu said that the AZ Commission on the Arts does not allow for multiple submissions. Ms. Osborne informed the commission that this information is presented to the grants subcommittee and up to this point has not been determined to be an issue. She reminded the commission that the City Council has the rightful authority to make that type of determination.

Commissioner Lickus had hoped for a larger pool of applicants. Vice-Chair Morgan felt that some organizations do not have enough business support to pursue applications such as this. Commissioner Lickus felt that the promotion should be amplified. Commissioner Grant pointed out that the pool of applicants tripled from last year, and is hopeful that it will continue to multiply. Commissioner Lieu asked how the city promotes the grant. Ms. Osborne reviewed the social media, television, email list, and print media promotional efforts.

Vice-Chair Morgan said that she would like the applicants to provide quantitative information that demonstrates measures of success. She also wanted clear differentiation between staff vs. artistic salaries. She used the example of event set-up and tear-down, and expressed a desire for more clear delineation. Commissioner Lieu disagreed because in this example, the funds were being used to make the event possible. Vice-Chair Morgan asked for delineation between event management and instructor fees and felt that the funding should be used accordingly. Commissioner Lieu felt that the concern was warranted for larger organizations, whereas being more narrow in the language would discourage smaller organizations. Commissioner deJong felt that there is a difference between a salary for an event or program versus the operational needs of an organization. Commissioner deJong requested that the application be reviewed two months in advance. Commissioner Lieu requested that the applicants be surveyed regarding the process, to aid the commissioners in improving it each year.

Item 4 – <u>Consideration and action pertaining to the deaccession of three murals at Dreamcatcher Park.</u>

Ms. Osborne overviewed the background of the item to the commission. Commissioner Whitwell asked whether they could allow the art to deteriorate naturally rather than remove it at once. Commissioner Lieu shared that the murals are in bad shape and the commission previously agreed to remove them altogether.

Commissioner Lieu moved to approve the deaccession of the three murals on the benches at Dreamcatcher Park. Commissioner Grant 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Item 5 – <u>Consideration and action pertaining to the Surprise Public Art promotional materials.</u>

Ms. Osborne presented the refreshed pamphlet design and informed the commissioners that the same style of card would be utilized. The commissioners expressed their liking for the new design. Commissioner deJong noted that one of the Joe Tyler benches is located at Benevilla, while the rest are at Arts HQ. Ms. Osborne noted the print spacing issues which is why the benches at Arts HQ are promoted.

Commissioner Grant moved to approve the purchase of the public art pamphlets at a cost not to exceed $2,000.00. Commissioner Lickus 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Item 6 – <u>Consideration and action pertaining to Poetry Slam enhancements.</u>

Ms. Osborne presented the new Poetry Slam backdrop design for the commission's review. Commissioner Lieu liked the new design. She asked for the full event title to be included in the print. She also felt that the design was too busy and asked if there was any way that a row or two could be removed, and the grid enlarged. The commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

Commissioner Lickus volunteered additional options to modify the design. Ms. Osborne asked for clear direction to provide to the graphic artist. The commission came to a consensus that they preferred the background with the white text, rather than the black text. They also asked for staff to use the letters with solid text and a transparent background.

Vice-Chair Morgan summarized the commissioners requests: add "at WHAM" to the end of "Poetry Slam," and accommodate the change by adjusting the text size as needed. They would also like staff to use the white, solid text with a transparent background.

Commissioner Grant moved to approve the Poetry Slam backdrop at a cost not to exceed $500.00. Commissioner Lieu 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Item 7 – <u>Discussion pertaining to a proposed art installation at the Surprise Stadium.</u>

Commissioner Lickus overviewed his idea, suggesting that MLB players could autograph the baseball bollards in front of Surprise Stadium. Once enough autographs are received, the bollards can be sealed with a protective coating and possibly auctioned off in the future. He spoke with members of the City Council, who directed him to speak with staff. Commissioner Lickus also spoke with members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, but they felt that the discussion was better suited with Sports & Tourism. Commissioner Lickus reported that everyone he has spoken with loves the idea and thinks that it is unique and inexpensive.

Commissioner Grant asked what would prevent rain from washing the autographs away, to which Commissioner Lickus said that they could research the appropriate materials that could be used. He suggested that eventually polyurethane could be used to seal them in. Vice-Chair Morgan suggested concentrating on one or two bollards to begin with, and then expanding to more of them in the future as needed.

Ms. Osborne said that she would meet with Sports & Tourism staff to determine next steps. Vice-Chair Morgan suggested Commissioner Lickus take the lead on the project, and possibly meet with Sports & Tourism staff based on Ms. Osborne's recommendation. The commission came to a consensus that they would like to pursue the project.

Item 8 – Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

The commissioners reviewed the calendar and did not request any amendments.

Commissioner deJong moved to approve the FY2023 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar. Commissioner Whitwell 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

Joe Tyler reception
Joe Tyler bench
Calendar of Events
AZ Humanities FY2023 schedule and format

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn: 7:25 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu. Commissioner Grant 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miett). Motion carried.

Kathie Morgan

Kathie Morgan, Vice-Chair

CERTIFICATION:
I, Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator for the City of Surprise Human Service & Community Vitality Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on June 6, 2022.

Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator