



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR CURRAN called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR CURRAN and COMMISSIONERS BRIARE, SPOTT (excused until 4:03 p.m.), HAYNES-HAMBLÉN, TRIMBLE, KARPEL, WEINSTEIN, and PACHECO

EXCUSED: MEMBERS SCHEFCIK, TUPAZ, ZACHMAN and LOWDEN

ALSO PRESENT: REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist, LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist, ELIAS GEORGE, Deputy City Attorney, and PATTY HLAVAC, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive; Las Vegas Senior Center, 451 East Bonanza Road.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Public Art Advisory Subcommittee Meeting and the Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission of March 21, 2019

Motion made by Jim Briare to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

For-John Curran, Jim Briare, Mickey Spott, Ally Haynes-Hamblén, John Trimble, Sandy Karpel, Polly Weinstein, John Pacheco; Excused-Jerry Schefcik, David Tupaz, Mark Zachman, Paul Lowden;

5. Report by John Curran, Arts Commission Chair, regarding monthly summary of current initiatives, cultural events and opportunities – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR CURRAN reported on the following events:

The Exploring the Twisted Nature of All Things Fiber exhibition is on display, through July 11th. The exhibit celebrates fiber arts and demonstrates the aesthetic and conceptual qualities of using various fiber media in making art.

Entries for the Celebrating Life! 2019 Juried Fine Art Competition are due April 24 by 3 p.m. at Charleston Heights Arts Center. This juried fine art competition is open to active adults age 50 and over who reside in Clark,

Esmerelda, Lincoln, Mineral and Nye counties of Nevada. There is no entry fee and artists are limited to one submission each.

For individuals interested in these events, CHAIR CURRAN suggested visiting www.artslasvegas.org or calling 702-229-ARTS (2787) for more information.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the annual election of officers – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR CURRAN noted that the last election of officers was in December 2017 and that officers elected at this meeting will serve their roles until the 2019 election of officers. He reviewed the current officers and deferred to legal counsel for guidance on the election process, for which DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ELAIS GEORGE provided, noting that members were welcome to nominate themselves.

CHAIR CURRAN expressed his willingness to continue as the Chair through 2019; however, he was open to other nominations if anyone else was interested. COMMISSIONER SPROTT felt that CHAIR CURRAN had done a great job and re-nominated him for the Chair position.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE expressed a desire to continue serving and nominated himself for the position of Vice Chair. COMMISSIONER SPROTT also agreed to continue; however, she was happy to allow someone else a chance if they wished to step-up for this challenge.

There being no further discussion, CHAIR BRIARE closed the nominations and proceeded with a motion. CHAIR CURRAN announced the candidates for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair positions. MR. GEORGE clarified the motion for the record, noting that the Motion was made by COMMISSIONER BRIARE to approve the nominations of JOHN CURRAN as the Chair, JIM BRIARE as the Vice Chair, and MICKEY SPROTT as Second Vice Chair.

Motion made by Jim Briare to Approve the appointment of John Curran as Chair, Jim Briare as Vice-Chair, and Mickey Sprott as Second Vice Chair

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

For-John Curran, Jim Briare, Mickey Sprott, Ally Haynes-Hamblen, John Trimble, Sandy Karpel, Polly Weinstein, John Pacheco; Excused-Jerry Schefcik, David Tupaz, Mark Zachman, Paul Lowden;

7. Report by the Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding monthly summary of current initiatives – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist, referenced the digital copy of the staff report that was provided to the Commissioners, noting that she was going to highlight a few additional points through the PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was provided for the record.

MS. HOLDEN acknowledged that at the last Arts Commission meeting, there was a request to have an agenda item this month pertaining to the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas Life; however, staff is postponing this item, as they really want to explore this question in greater detail at the May 2019 meeting.

She provided an update on the Contemporary Public Art Program, noting that another project has been installed by artist Randy Mendre. His art display is called Fore, which he calls a brutalist representation of golf balls. The exhibit is located at Angel Park Trailhead in Ward 2 near Durango and Summerlin Parkway.

MS. HOLDEN noted that they have seven students who are contracted to do artwork for the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project in partnership with multiple Sun City Summerlin residents. The students are doing a great job in proceeding with the project despite their demands to graduate high school and prepare for college.

MS. HOLDEN reviewed the progress photos for each artist through the PowerPoint presentation. The AMP box utility locations with the respective artist's artwork were indicated as follows:

ALEJANDRO PONCE - AMP Sun City Summerlin, located at Sun City and Lake Mead Boulevards.

ANDRESS BELK - AMP Sun City Summerlin, located at West Cheyenne and Rampart Boulevards.

JULIANA CABRAL - AMP Sun City Summerlin, located at Rampart and Del Webb Boulevards.

KYLEE SHAY - AMP Sun City Summerlin, located Del Webb - Hills Center and West Lake Mead Boulevard

BRANDOM SANCHEZ - AMP Sun City Summerlin, located at Sun City and Lake Mead Boulevards

MS. HOLDEN said this did not include all of the projects, but these were the progress shots staff had available for the meeting. They are hoping the students will finish before the weather gets too hot, as there are plans to have a nice reception for everyone.

Additionally, she reported that the AMP utility cabinet at Maryland Parkway and Bonneville Avenue that was painted by MARK BRANDVIK, which was hit by a car and destroyed last April, was finished, as MR. BRANDVIK just finished repainting the new cabinet.

In response to COMMISSIONER PACHECO'S inquiry as to if these projects were searchable online, MS. HOLDEN noted that the design proposals were originally presented at last year's Arts Commission meeting around this time, and that all of the information related to that meeting, as well as the audio recording, could be found under that meeting on the old Meetings and Agendas Sire website for the City of Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER WEINSTEIN asked if there was a list of all of the AMP boxes that were easily accessible, to which MS. HOLDEN offered to provide the list. CHAIR CURRAN suggested that all of this information could be incorporated on ArtsLasVegas.org, as has he has struggled in trying to navigate the Sire Public website for past meetings and agendas. PATTY HLAVAC, Deputy City Clerk, noted that the new agendas are now on PrimeGOV and that the web portal could be found by going to the old Sire Public Agendas and Meetings website and clicking on the hyperlink, which is highlighted in yellow at the top of the page.

8. Presentation by a Lyft Nevada representative regarding the Lyft Art Park, located at the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Fremont Street – Ward 3

Minutes:

KRIS CUARESMA-PRIMM stated that he has been the Marketing Director for Lyft, Inc. in Las Vegas for the past three years; however, he will be leaving this position shortly. He provided some history on the Lyft Art Park on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Fremont Street. He explained that about a year ago, MAYOR GOODMAN called on Uber and Lyft to help solve Downtown Las Vegas' traffic congestion problems. He guessed that during peak hours, Uber and Lyft were picking up customers every 30 seconds at these two pickup zones, which created a lot of congestion problems and safety issues for pedestrians, as well as a policy challenge.

Referencing the PowerPoint presentation, which was submitted for the record, he said they initially started looking at how much they utilize what is called Ron's lot to reduce congestion; however, after the Lyft operations staff and others walked the lot, they decided to reframe the question to how they might redesign downtown's busiest block around people instead of cars. The opportunities that emerged were to reduce congestion and save lives while creating public art, which became their model.

On Slide 4 of the PowerPoint presentation, MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM talked about how they considered reducing congestion. He pointed out that the pink box on the slide was the Lyft Art Park and that the red arrows indicated an alley where the cars come in and out. He explained that this alley is used during normal business hours for food deliveries and such; however, at night it is not used at all. By using their technology to move the traffic flow from Fremont Street to the underutilized alley, they were able to redesign how the city utilizes underutilized space. In terms of saving lives, Lyft partnered with the Zero Fatalities Organization and helped to create the Las Vegas Coalition for Zero Fatalities with 13 different organizations across town. He discussed how they wanted the Lyft Art Park to be a place where locals and tourists could go after attending events, while also understanding they could get a safe ride back home.

MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM thought the best part of the whole project was the art and introduced JOSH LEVINE, who runs a company called Fired Up Management in Los Angeles, California. He shared that MR. LEVINE has been going to Burning Man for 20 years and is the curator of all the art in for that project. He said that Burning Man has some of the world's most creative people, but most Nevadans will never have a chance to go to this event. In that, they wondered if they could create a Burning Man free public art sculpture garden. MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM also talked about how they could position downtown Las Vegas as the street art capital of America, noting that local and national publications loved the concept of turning a parking lot into an art park coupled with helping people find safe rides.

Referencing the PowerPoint presentation, MR. LEVINE and MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM discussed several of the Burning Man pieces that have been displayed in the Art Park, some of which included Euterpe - a 35-foot animatronic puppet from Spain; Enda - a 30-foot polar bear made from recycled car hoods; Never Was Haul -

made of two real Victorian houses from the 1800s that were merged together; Deep Playa Taxi - an ode to Roger Rabbit and to cabs from New York City; Rouge Scarab - a Honda cut in half and made to resemble a scarab bug, and Forever Fireworks - which has 25,000 Light Emitting Diodes (LED) that resemble a dandelion during the day and at night comes alive as a firework, which looks like it could go on forever.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEEN asked if all of their funding came from Lyft, to which MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM affirmed, noting that they are looking to scale this in other places and will be seeking other partners who would like to participate.

CHAIR CURRAN remembered the challenges that were discussed a few years ago. He felt that having a private sector solution which incorporated public art made a meaningful and special impact. He inquired as to the security and operations of the Art Park and asked if they would provide some feedback on the lessons they have learned. MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM explained that the park has 24-hour security, noting that they partner with the Park on Fremont, which has been beneficial because they pay for the security. For lessons learned, he felt that with a greater budget and more time, Brand Ambassadors or Hosts would be able to convey the rich history and background of the art pieces for the many people who come through the park. Additionally, they learned about the different weather elements in Las Vegas and how this impacts the public pieces. MR. LEVINE talked about how they had to secure things due to tagging and theft; however, overall, he thought it was a huge success. He shared a personal story about a young girl who was confined to a wheelchair and how her father expressed that their experience was one of the best times they have ever had.

MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM'S last thought was about how many underutilized assets there are in the city. He shared that the Burning Man art many times sits in a shipping container for a good portion of the year, which to a degree is also underutilized, and for them, it was thinking about how these types of things can be taken and put together to make something special.

MR. CUARESMA-PRIMM'S affirmed for CHAIR CURRAN that the display will be on through the end of the year, and MR. LEVINE pointed out that they switch out the art pieces every quarter.

9. Presentation by Bruce Isaacson, former Clark County Poet Laureate, regarding a collection of poetry coordinated by Poetry Promise to be etched on the benches as part of the 3rd Street Project – Ward 3

Minutes:

BRUCE ISAACSON stated that Poetry Promise Inc. is a 501(c)(3) that works to expand the knowledge and practice of poetry in the literary arts within the community. They do a variety of things, such as the Poet in the Schools program where working poets go to schools and work with students to help them develop literacy thinking and an appreciation for art. They also have an Alzheimer's Poetry project which takes working poets and students from schools to nursing homes. Elderly individuals with Alzheimer's are provided poems, songs and things that are familiar to them, as this type of exposure has been known to help them with their memory. They also have free educational workshops throughout the community, as well as a reading series that brings poets from out of the area and gives them opportunities to interact with the arts communities throughout different parts of the United States. He shared that recently at a First Friday event, they had two poets from different states who read with two local poets. Also, there will be another event like this on May 17, 2019, at The Lucy.

MR. ISAACSON said that through the grace of the City of Las Vegas, this project had provided 10 Las Vegas poets with an opportunity to have some of their work immortalized on the benches of 3rd Street. He shared some background on the poets, noting that most of these individuals are volunteers. Other information included that six of these individuals identified themselves as men, four identified themselves as women, four were from minority communities, and two were from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Transgender (LGBTQ) community. For one individual, this will be his first publication, and another has been honored at the Library of Congress with the Poet Laureate of the United States. MR. ISAACSON noted that all of the poems are in English; however, one participant is a scholar of Chinese poetry. Also, two participants started the Las Vegas Support Local Art in Music (SLAM) events, which are very popular with younger people. There are also an additional five who run regular reading events in the community.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO asked where their organization finds these people and MR. ISAACSON said they locate them at readings and within the community. COMMISSIONER PACHECO wondered how someone like himself could find out about these events. MR. ISAACSON shared that he has a personal email list for a reading

that he runs weekly on Saturdays, noting that he would be happy to include email addresses on his list if they were provided to him. Additionally, there is a calendar on the Poetry Promise website that lists future events.

MR. ISAACSON conveyed their appreciation to the City, Commission, and staff for the support that has been given.

LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist, clarified for MR. ISAACSON that the project will be completed in 2020. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist, noted that the Commissioners had a copy of this information in their binders under the backup tab.

CHAIR CURRAN thanked MR. ISAACSON, noting that he was glad to see literary art represented and immortalized in this park.

10. **Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items.** Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members shall refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion shall be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Commission and/or whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN affirmed for CHAIR CURRAN that a representative from the Mayors Fund would be present at the next meeting to present a plan.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO wondered what happened with the Commissions idea to put away funding for larger pieces of artwork. COMMISSIONER SPROTT clarified that at the last meeting, the Mayor's Fund was presented as a potential vehicle for larger projects. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN noted that as a commissioned body, few projects have been approved this year in order to preserve the small balance that the Commission does have so that it can be added to next year's funding transfer, which will allow the Commission to have more funding to work with. She clarified for CHAIR CURRAN that everything in the Municipal Arts Fund rolls over, as it is a Special Revenue Fund and not part of the General Fund.

11. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4-44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Patty Hlavac, Deputy City Clerk

Ally Haynes-Hamblen, Director, Office of Cultural Affairs

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive

