



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONERS KLEVEN, HACKETT-MORGAN, STRAUS (excused until 4:04 p.m.), BEDNARCZYK, WESTFIELD, DOUGLAS, and PLASTER

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER KARPEL, CURRAN, and HAMPTON

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, REBECCA HOLDEN, and MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialists II; VAL STEED, Deputy City Attorney V; and ASHLEY FOSTER, 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 in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov.

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 Regular Meeting of May 19, 2022

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER PLASTER corrected that she was not in attendance at the May 19, 2022 Arts Commission Meeting.

Motion made by Mickey Sprott to Approve as amended

NOTE: Commissioner Kleven abstained from voting on this item, as she was not present at that meeting.

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-David Straus, Mickey Sprott, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Maggie Plaster, Monique Westfield, Fawn Douglas; Abstain-Jennifer Kleven; Excused-Sandy Karpel, Ryan Hampton, John Curran;

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

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT announced the resignation of ALLY HAYNES-HAMBLEN, former Director of Cultural Affairs, which was effective June 3, 2022. She stated that MS. HAYNES-HAMBLEN was an important voice on the Arts Commission and wished her the best in all her endeavors. MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Cultural Affairs Director, will fill her role on the Commission. The Chair welcomed COMMISSIONER PLASTER as well as COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS, WESTFIELD, and ROBERTS. CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONER KLEVEN shared in reading brief biographies about the new Commissioners.

CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONER KLEVEN reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the Las Vegas Juneteenth Festival at The Expo at the World Market Center, the Vegas City Opera presents Black Swan Radio Hour, the DjangoVegas! Music Festival returns to the Historic Fifth Street School, the Celebrating Life! juried exhibition and Salon des Refuses exhibition will be on display at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, the Southern Nevada Veterans Creative Arts Competition, a dedication event for Level the Playing Field by GIG DEPIO at the Las Vegas Municipal Courthouse, the reception for the art of the three-dimensional maquette, and a reception honoring the participating artists of the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project. They provided some of the details regarding event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists, noting additional information could be found at www.artslasvegas.org or by calling 702-249-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN said The Neon Museum is seeking a national artist in residence for 2022. Applications will be accepted until June 17, 2022, and more information could be found at www.neonmuseum.org/education/artist-in-residence.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS announced an exhibition honoring the Tuskegee Airman titled Blanket of Protection. It will open June 16, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will run through October 19th at Nevada State College in the CEB Gallery. The 1st Annual INDIGIpride will be held on June 30, 2022 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Las Vegas Indian Center, and will honor Indigenous queer, trans, non-binary, and Two Spirit communities.

CHAIR SPROTT welcomed the new Commissioners to introduce themselves.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD said she has lived in Las Vegas since 1979 and graduated from UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) in 1983. She moved around to different states but moved back to Las Vegas in 2007. She is the founder of Tony's House, a non-profit organization, within the Historic Westside. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said she is Southern Paiute, is a member of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and is also part Cheyenne, Pawnee, and Creek. She recently earned her MFA (Master of Fine Arts) from UNLV and is one half of Nuwu Art. She mentioned that the Nuwu Art, Cultural Arts + Activism Center will have a soft opening in July, and there will be an event for missing and murdered Indigenous women on July 15th, which will be open to the public. COMMISSIONER PLASTER said she has lived in Las Vegas for 17 years and went to The University of the South, where she met her husband. She received her Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas, felt fortunate to work for the City of Las Vegas, and was honored to serve on the Arts Commission.

CHAIR SPROTT looked forward to getting to know everyone. She said the Commission has a responsibility to advocate for the arts, and she encouraged the Commissioners to work with their Councilmembers. She hoped the Office of Cultural Affairs would continue to be its own department given the recent changes.

COMMISSIONER PLASTER said they were notified the Office would be consolidated into the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department would be renamed to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. She believed the Office would stay its own unit within the new department and hoped they would operate even better with a larger administrative support group.

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

Minutes:

MARY SABO, REBECCA HOLDEN, and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialists II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, regarding current projects and artistic opportunities. MS. SABO noted that the monthly Staff Report was also provided to the Commissioners, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

MS. SABO, MS. HOLDEN, and MS. MACHADO shared information regarding the location and timeline for and the artists involved in the following initiatives: AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project, Current Artist Opportunities, Charleston Underpass Mural Project, Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project, East Las Vegas Community Center Mural, Emergent – Arts District Public Art Project, LIB21 Ward 3 Mural Project, Maintenance and Conservation, Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project, Ogden Underpass Project, Ward 3 Proud Banner Project, and Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule.

MS. HOLDEN and MS. SABO recognized and thanked COMMISSIONERS KARPEL and STRAUS for their service to the Arts Commission. COMMISSIONER KARPEL served for eight years as a representative of Ward 4 and the Sun City Summerlin community. COMMISSIONER STRAUS served for two years and was appointed by MAYOR CAROLYN GOODMAN. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN thanked COMMISSIONER STRAUS for his work. COMMISSIONER STRAUS stated that it was an honor and pleasure to serve.

Regarding the Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project, COMMISSIONER KLEVEN wondered if the budget would be split into smaller projects or one holistic project for the entire civic center. COMMISSIONER PLASTER said all funding will go towards one project, which they are seeking a national or international artist for. The Arts Commission may consider allocating additional funds toward the project at an upcoming meeting.

CHAIR SPROTT noticed many events happening throughout the month of July and thanked staff for the projects they are working on. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN also thanked staff. She asked about one of the AMP utility cabinet boxes that was damaged and wondered if the artist receives additional compensation out of the maintenance and conservation budget. MS. MACHADO explained that when the artist finished the project, they were paid for its completion. They will be hired to repaint the damaged utility cabinet, but she was unsure where the funding will come from.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN also wondered if additional funding would be sought to maintain the 125 new art pieces. MS. HOLDEN said in addition to strategizing a possible request for additional funding for maintenance and conservation, the Office will consider hiring hourly staff to support maintenance and conservation efforts. CHAIR SPROTT believed the Office should think about a conservator position.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD asked if staff could put together a list of the events they would like the Commissioners to attend. MS. HOLDEN said there is no mandatory attendance for the Commissioners; however, the Office of Cultural Affairs has a lot of Performing and Visual Arts programming. If interested in attending, the Commissioners can sign up for an e-mail newsletter at www.artslasvegas.org and specify their interests. In addition, there is an events listing on the City's website, which can also be filtered by interest. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN encouraged the Commissioners to sign up for the e-mail newsletter.

COMMISSIONER PLASTER mentioned that ticket sales have not been great for Black Swan Radio Hour at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, and encouraged the Commissioners to attend the event during the upcoming weekend. She also noted that the DjangoVegas! Music Festival will be held during the upcoming weekend at the Historic Fifth Street School.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment or re-appointment of members to the Arts Commission Subcommittees – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT directed the Commissioners' attention to the list of subcommittee descriptions and membership in their binders, a copy of which was submitted for the record. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, explained there are multiple subcommittees that support the Arts Commission, which she reviewed from the handout.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked if the pre-qualified artist roster list has ever been used for the Fast Track Subcommittee. MS. HOLDEN believed the list expired prior to her hire date in 2015 but thought it may have been used on one or two previous projects. CHAIR SPROTT thought there were benefits to having such a list, and it is something the Commission should consider in the future.

The Chair explained that this item was for the Commissioners to choose a subcommittee to serve on, noting

there are limitations to how many members can serve on each subcommittee as to not violate the bylaws. MS. HOLDEN noted the Chair serves as ex-officio on each; therefore, there cannot be more than six members on each subcommittee. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN added that the subcommittees meet 30 minutes before the Arts Commission meeting, and because the meetings are open to the public, the Commissioners may attend the meetings and provide public comment.

COMMISSIONER BEDNARCZYK wished to be involved with the Fast Track Subcommittee, and COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS volunteered for the Education Subcommittee. COMMISSIONERS WESTFIELD and PLASTER offered to serve on the Project Development Subcommittee.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to add Commissioner Douglas to the Education Subcommittee, Commissioners Westfield and Plaster to the Project Development Subcommittee, and Commissioner Bednarczyk to the Fast Track Subcommittee

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-David Straus, Mickey Sprott, Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Maggie Plaster, Monique Westfield, Fawn Douglas; Excused-Sandy Karpel, Ryan Hampton, John Curran;

8. **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 KLEVEN wondered if there were any projects that ALLY HAYNES-HAMBLEN was working on that needed to be addressed. COMMISSIONER PLASTER replied that most of the projects that come before the Arts Commission for consideration are managed by the Public Arts team.

CHAIR SPROTT wished for an item to review the budget. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, agreed that this would be an excellent item for the September meeting, which she anticipated would be lengthy.

The Chair encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to staff anytime they think of a project idea.

9. **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.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT welcomed the new Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Maggie Plaster, Deputy Director
Office of Cultural Affairs

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor