



Citizens Advisory Committee to the Redevelopment Agency Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

ACTING CHAIR HILL called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR HILL (seated as Chair after Item 6) and MEMBERS MACK, MATHIS, PALACIOS (via teleconference), JONES, and CAMACHO

EXCUSED: MEMBER DYKES

ALSO PRESENT: JEFF McGEACHY, Sr. Economic Development Specialist, ELIAS GEORGE, Deputy City Attorney, and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, 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.

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 28, 2019

Motion made by Beverly Mathis to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Daniel Hill, Robin Camacho, Lois Mack, Asha L Jones, Beverly Mathis, Craig Palacios; Excused-Jermaine Dykes;

5. Presentation by Rebecca Miller, Vice President of the 18b The Las Vegas Arts District Board, regarding an update on 18b The Las Vegas Arts District

Minutes:

REBECCA MILLER, Vice President of the 18b The Las Vegas Arts District Board, used a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to update the board on the 18b The Las Vegas Arts District (Arts District).

MS. MILLER said she is a property owner in the Arts District and owns over an acre with 11 properties including Main Street Mercantile. She has been in the area for over 30 years and has managed properties within the area for over 20 years with a 100 percent occupancy rate.

The Arts District and its board were started 20 years ago when the City of Las Vegas decided to establish districts within the downtown area. Originally, the Arts District was 18 blocks - nine blocks north of Charleston Boulevard and nine blocks south of Charleston Boulevard. It has since expanded to incorporate some of the bigger projects of the area and is now being lobbied to properties further south in the Gateway District.

The board is 100 percent volunteer-based and is a 501c4 similar to an HOA (homeowners association). Meetings are open to the public and vary depending upon who volunteers to hold one. Additionally, the board acts as a support group for committees and other people interested in the arts. MS. MILLER noted that sponsorships and grants have been received for different artists, and the most recent grant was to do six murals downtown as part of a mural project to beautify the area in conjunction with what the City has completed with the Commerce Street and Main Street couplets.

MS. MILLER said there have been some recent improvements to the area which are of interest to investors, and individuals have purchased empty lots for construction. She hoped the improvements will open up visibility to the area, and the board has now begun the Alley Initiative which is part of the Alley Tier Program by the City for alley improvements, and MS. MILLER briefly described the alleys within the area having already been addressed. The Alley Initiative requires the strong support of building owners who must contribute money and effort in addition to the City providing infrastructure assistance.

She expressed the need in getting the word out about the Arts District, as many people are not aware of its existence. To that end, there is now a website and several Facebook Groups to help disseminate information. Additionally, there is a Lookbook which features artists for hire in addition to there being the book titled Street Art by WILLIAM SHEAR and PATRICK LAI. There is also a Walking Map of the entire area similar to what San Antonio and Sacramento have, and the board is working with tour operators and the Las Vegas Loop which has two stops in the Arts District.

MS. MILLER spoke of the concerns of the board which includes addressing the lack of parking. She urged the Members that if they could do anything to help the Arts District in any way, it would be to focus on trying to help in that regard. She acknowledged how the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and the City have emphasized the use of ride-sharing and public transportation but she did not believe this to be realistic for Las Vegas.

Another concern she expressed was in regard to land speculators who purchase properties and leave the property vacant intentionally to use as a tax break. This creates a dangerous land vacancy problem, and she noted having made a recommendation to the City Council to increase the property taxes incrementally if a building is left vacant exponentially; however, this recommendation was discouraged.

MS. MILLER also shared her concerns about Code Enforcement stating that many small businesses must leave Las Vegas because they cannot renovate a property to meet Code Enforcement satisfaction.

A smaller concern she had was the loss of the one-of-a-kind feeling of the Arts District.

Lastly, she felt the Arts District is Las Vegas' best-kept secret; there are many great attributes of the district including restaurants, great art, various types of retail, and automobile shops; however, many people are not aware of this.

In discussing the future, MS. MILLER shared the board's desire to attract investors to subsidize artists. She also spoke of the desires to have the business license fee waived for artists, to see more live/workspaces, to work more with the public, have more public artwork, and to coordinate with other non-profit and for-profit art groups.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of a new Chair to replace former Chair Steven Clarke

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ELIAS GEORGE encouraged VICE CHAIR HILL to open the floor for possible nominations. He informed the Members that should VICE CHAIR HILL be nominated and elected as the Chair, there would be an agenda item on the next meeting agenda to fill the Vice Chair seat.

Motion made by Beverly Mathis to elect Daniel Hill as Chair

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Daniel Hill, Robin Camacho, Lois Mack, Asha L Jones, Beverly Mathis, Craig Palacios; Excused-Jermaine Dykes;

7. **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 Committee 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:

JEFF McGEACHY, Sr. Economic Development Specialist, referred to the list of possible agenda topics, which has been attached as backup, and stated that the list was compiled with suggestions from the Board for the Members' consideration. He encouraged the Members to send suggestions to him via e-mail.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ELIAS GEORGE added that suggestions could be made under this item to be discussed on a future agenda after the meeting has been publicly noticed. MEMBER JONES asked for the Hundred Plan to be prioritized. MR. McGEACHY noted the request.

CHAIR HILL noticed the Parking Program on the list and thought that sounded like it should be discussed. MR. McGEACHY would prioritize this.

MEMBER CAMACHO wondered if the Business Improvement District needed to be discussed. MR. McGEACHY was not certain of its viability in the future.

8. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee. No subject may be acted upon by the Committee 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.

9. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

Daniel Hill, Chair

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