

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013**

**A. Call to Order:**

Chairman Herman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez  
Pamela Runner  
Victor Hammond  
Erica Herman  
Regis Sommers  
Stacey Seaman  
Susan Wortman

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Cathy Zapata	Office Assistant
Rina Rien	Executive Director, Main Street
Marge Jantz	Chairman, Historic Preservation Commission
Zoe Cooper	President, CG Youth Commission
Kris Mejia	Secretary, CG Youth Commission
Christina Sampson	Reporter, CG Dispatch

**B. Minutes**

**B.1 Regular Meeting – June 5, 2013**

Vice Chairman Benitez offered corrections to the regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2013 to reflect the correct name of Ms. Kirstin Jeffers.

Member Hammond moved to approve the regular minutes of June 5, 2013 with corrections. Member Seaman seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

## **C. Reports**

### **C.1 Report on the Commission’s Attendance to the Free Workshop Grant Writing Offered by the Arizona Commission on the Arts**

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Vice Chairman Benitez reported on attending the Arizona Commission on the Arts and how they are ready to apply for funding; one workshop in particular on grant writing she felt was very successful. Vice Chairman Benitez shared her thoughts about getting everybody in the same room and “demystifying” the grant writing process by getting feedback and guidance from the grant organization itself.

Member Seaman invited everyone to join the next Arizona Commission on the Arts free workshop on August 15, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at In a Pear Tree building. The topic will be on “Arts Advocacy”. Member Seaman also gave kudos to Member Benitez for pursuing these workshops.

Member Wortman expressed her concern with the importance of the need for readers to read their grant proposals. She went on to say this would help us write our own grants and help to appreciate how much work the City Clerk collects to get these grants through.

Member Wortman conveyed that she learned of an orchestra group “Strings of the Sonoran” who is a group of high school students along with people up to their 80’s who perform at events for donations, this was just a bit of information gathered from the workshop.

### **C.2 Update on Grant Applications**

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City Clerk Miller reported that the report requirement of the Grant-In-Aid agreement was completed and submitted the Tohono O’odham Nation for the \$10,000 Prop 202 grant. The report reflected how the Commission distributed the funds through their Mini Grant Program for Teachers of Casa Grande School Districts. It is very important to inform the Tohono O’odham Nation that the Commission met their goals in spreading the arts to the community. Along with the report a copy of a CD was submitted containing the thank you letters from the students, pictures of the activities, receipts of expenditures and reports from the teachers.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she also took the liberty of applying for a grant of \$1,000 to APS Corporate Giving for the Commission's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Plein Air Painting Event for 2014.

City Clerk Miller stated that if the Commission gets awarded the funds, the APS Logo will be used to all the materials for the 2014 Plein Air Painting Event. The logo will also be displayed during the reception and an APS Representative will be invited to serve as one of the judges.

City Clerk Miller reported that the notification of decision of grant applications for 2013-2014 Proposition 202 funding to Tohono O'odham Nation will be available on August 30, 2013 and the Gila River Indian Community will be available on October 30, 2013. The grant applications are for the Commission's Mini-Grant Program and Railroad Art Project.

#### **D. Unfinished Business**

##### **D.1 Update on Main Street's 2013 Downtown Public Art Project "Doors to the Past"**

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Ms. Rina Rein, Main Street Executive Director provided the Commission an update on the Main Street's 2013 Public Art Project "Doors to the Past." The nine (9) vintage doors will be painted with historic icons. The painted doors will be installed on the wall of the Merle Norman building.

Ms. Rein conveyed that there was an overwhelming response from the community with this project for downtown. The project was launched from a local grant. Main Street has matched and exceeded the initial grant money as a result of the donations. Six (6) of the nine (9) doors are completed. A reception will be scheduled to thank the artists who participated in painting the arts for the "Doors to the Past Project." Artist that participated in this project are members from the Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association with the exception of two people. There will be an official unveiling and presentation of this project to the community sometime in October.

Ms. Marge Jantz reported that the wall where the doors will be installed have the original windows. These windows were clean and restored in preparation for the installation.

## **D.2 Update on Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce Bravo Award Program**

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Chairman Herman reported that the Commission at their last meeting instructed her and Vice Chairman Benitez to meet with the Executive Director of Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Arts & Humanities Commission's Bravo Award Program.

Member Chairman conveyed that she spoke to Ms. Helen Neuharth and she suggested for the Arts & Humanities Commission to attend the Chamber Board meeting to make a presentation. Ms. Neuharth will notify Member Herman the schedule of the board meeting. Vice Chairman Benitez and Member Wortman volunteered to attend the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting.

## **D.3 Update on Possible Project - Mini Play Contests**

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Member Hammond spoke about the contest and wanted the consensus of the Commission if they wanted to follow through on it, also to identify when and where the Commission should hold this event.

Member Hammond conveyed that winter is the best time for this event since winter visitors are in town. The Central Arizona College (CAC), In a Pear Tree at downtown, or the Historical Society will be ideal location for this event.

Member Seaman and her group are working on a theater season calendar. She will bring the calendar at the next meeting to determine if there is any conflict in selecting the dates for the Commission's Mini Play Contest.

It was the consensus of the Commission to continue discussion of the Mini Play Contest at their next meeting.

City Clerk Miller will draft a policy for the mini play and will present for the Commission's review at their next meeting.

**E. New Business:**

**E.1 Review and Discuss the Proposal Received for the Casa Grande Youth Commission’s Call for the Artist Interested in Designing, Constructing and Installing Art Work for the Garden of Sunshine Memorial Garden**

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City Clerk Miller reported that one (1) proposal from Artist, Doug Boyd was received for the Call for the Artist of the Casa Grande Youth Commission Art Work for the Garden of Sunshine Memorial Garden Project that closed on July 15, 2013.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that Artist, Doug Boyd submitted the following:

1. Statement of Interest including a brief narrative description of his ideas concerning the project.
2. Digital Image of his proposal and previous work.
3. Resume of art experience/training.
4. Budget proposal for the project including material & travel time.

Casa Grande Youth Commission President Zoe Cooper and Secretary Kris Mejia were present to review the proposal with the Arts & Humanities Commission.

President Cooper read into the record Mr. Doug Boyd’s proposal as follows:

From the very moment I read about The Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial and the touching story of Zack and Katie I knew this was a community I wanted to share my love of art and life with. Many years ago when I was given an opportunity to work with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus as a clown and I recall my best days involved visiting children’s hospitals, burn wards, and various orphanages around America...I was not much older than Katie and Zack. I have seen more times than I care to remember the lives of young people cut short for a variety a reasons.

I envision a sculpture that represents the spirit and carefree love of life that most teens enjoy. Imagine if you will a large brightly colored sculpture we can call “Bright Wings” that spins in the wind and moves gracefully in the face of adversity. Looking into the wind no matter from which direction it comes, spinning, living and moving. It is a reminder that when faced with difficulty in life we must keep moving. So through the spirit of the many

young that have passed away, it’s their presence and their incredible memories that will breathe life into this sculpture.

I truly look forward to being a part of such an incredible and special place as The Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial.

City Clerk Miller stated that the Artist Doug Boyd was within budget when he submitted his proposal, as follows:

The Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial Cost Proposal

The fabrication of this sculpture would involve the need for a solid concrete base that would be used to mount the sculpture.

The materials used for the sculpture would include 16-24 gauge sheet steel which has been cut to shape, edges buffed, primed and painted. The top portion of the sculpture would be capable of moving based on wind blowing through the Sunshine Garden

Materials:	Steel Cost	\$875
(4) 16-24 gauge cold rolled sheet steel	Finish Cost	\$375
(1) 1” x 3/8” x 10’ round steel pipe	Concrete Base	\$135
(1) 2” x 35’ x 1/8” round steel pipe	Travel Cost	<u>\$115</u>
(1) 2” horizontal axle	Total Cost	\$1500
(1) 36” x 1/2” diameter mounting plate		
(1) 48” x 48” x 1/4” gusset material		

City Clerk Miller conveyed that on September 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Youth Commission meeting in which the artist is being invited to make a presentation. City Clerk Miller added that the Youth Commission will ultimately make the decision on what proposal will be accepted.

The Committee Members requested that the Youth Commission keep them abreast of any decisions made.

Ms. Cooper conveyed that the Casa Grande Youth Commission at their retreat on August 10 & 11, 2013 will review Mr. Boyd’s proposal.

## **E.2                                      Discussion on Prize-Winning Paintings from Commission’ Recent Plein Air Painting Event**

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City Clerk Miller reported that there are 2-Adult and 2-Youth prize-winning art paintings from the 2013 Plein Air Painting Event. The paintings were displayed at both City Libraries. In the past, the Commission had auctioned the winning paintings to raise funds. City Clerk Miller asked the Commission on what they plan to do with the paintings.

Member Regis and Chairman Herman reported that they made an executive decision to auction the 2-Adult prize-winning art paintings during the Wine and Cheeseburger event held at BeDillions. It was difficult to conduct a silent auction in a crowded event with very little opportunity to display the paintings.

City Clerk Miller reported that the Main Library returned the 2-youth prize-winning art paintings from the 2012 contest. The Commission donated these paintings to the Main Library; however due to remodeling of the building they will not have room for them.

It was the consensus of the Commission to keep the youth winning art paintings from the 2012 and 2013 Plein Air contest as a traveling art show. Further, the Commission agreed for Chairman Herman and Member Somers to take the 2-adult prize-winning paintings for silent auction at their next Wine and Cheeseburger event.

Ms. Rein, Executive Director of Main Street offered the new main street office located at 110 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for the Commission to display the youth prize-winning paintings.

## **E.3                                      Discussion/Approval of the Piatigorsky Foundation Concert in 2014**

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Member Wortman reported that The Piatigorsky Foundation will have two (2) artists touring Arizona in January 20 through 27, 2014. Artists are Marcus Thompson, Violinist and Doris Stevenson, Piano Accompanist. Further, the foundation would like to know if the Arts & Humanities Commission will be interested to sponsor a 2014 concert.

Member Wortman conveyed that in the past the Commission approved three (3) concerts (2 performances during the day and 1 performance in the evening). There has been a better attendance in Casa Grande than any other locations in Arizona.

In response to Member Wortman, City Clerk Miller conveyed that Debra Martin of the Paramount Theater agreed to host the evening performance of 2014 Piatigorsky Concert. There are 2 upright, 1 spinet, 1 Suzuki and a grand piano available for the pianist.

Member Sommers moved that if the artists are willing and available, to approve funding of three (3) performances (two day performances and one evening performance) at \$250.00 each honorarium fee. Member Wortman seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

City Clerk Miller will respond to Ms. Kathy LeBlanc informing her that the Commission is committed to funding the 2014 concert.

Member Benitez added that there is a small group of string musicians and violinist that would really benefit from such a world class group. Member Benitez thinks it would be a great idea for the interaction between the young group and the artists.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

#### **F. Miscellaneous:**

City Clerk Miller reported that due to schedule conflict Ms. Berlin Loa, Museum Director was not able to do the presentation tonight. Ms. Loa is scheduled for the September meeting to provide the Arts & Humanities Commission an update regarding the public exhibit of Mayor's collection of Native American artifacts located at the City Admin/Finance Departments.

City Clerk Miller announced that the Mayor's Appreciation Dinner for the City Boards, Commission and Committees is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

Ms. Gloria Smith, member of Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association, offered some ideas to the future Commission's Fundraising "Concept for Chairitable." She presented a completed painted garden chair as an example for this project. She also suggested using the painted chairs as a fundraiser and possibly donating the money to the Plein Air Event.

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that Ms. Kirsten Jeffers invited the members of Arts & Humanities Commission to attend the Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> to make the presentation about the "Chairitable" project.

Member Benitez conveyed that the Arizona Commission on the Arts has a workshop for charitable events and it may be something that we can look into; they will come and present the workshop if the commission contacts them.

It was the consensus of the Commission to include in the agenda for September meeting the discussion for 2014 Plein Air Painting Event.

City Clerk Miller requested for the Commission to look at some of the art frames and portraits that Staff from the Main Library forward. The Main Library building is currently under construction. Staff cleaned up and discovered number of native art displays in a frame that they no longer need.

The Commission took a brief moment to review the frames & portrait displays of native art. Further, the Commission instructed the City Clerk to research another area to display the items and/or auction for profit.

**G. Public Comments:**

Chairman Herman called for public comments. No comments were offered.

**H. Adjournment:**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:43 p.m.

*Erica Herman*

/s/Erica Herman

Chairman