

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

**A. Call to Order:**

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

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez  
Seprina Packard  
Jeanette Rhodes  
Gloria Smith  
Stacey Seaman  
Jonathan Voyce

The following member was absent:

Erica Herman

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller      City Clerk  
Anna M. Valenzuela    Deputy City Clerk

**B. Minutes:**

City Clerk Miller reported that the October 7, 2015 minutes for the Commission's approval reflect corrections to Item E.2, as follows: Page 4 and 7 reflects the total amount for Mini-Grant proposals of \$6,624.04. Pages 8 and 9, the total Mini-Grant award of \$6,853.62, including the increase of funds to Mr. Wagoner.

Member Smith requested correction to the minutes to reflect her comment "*she also recommended awarding Mr. Wagoner more money than he requested*" that should have been noted on page 5 (between paragraphs 9 and 10).

Member Voyce moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015 as amended. Vice Chairman Packard seconded the motion was carried unanimously.

**C. Reports: None**

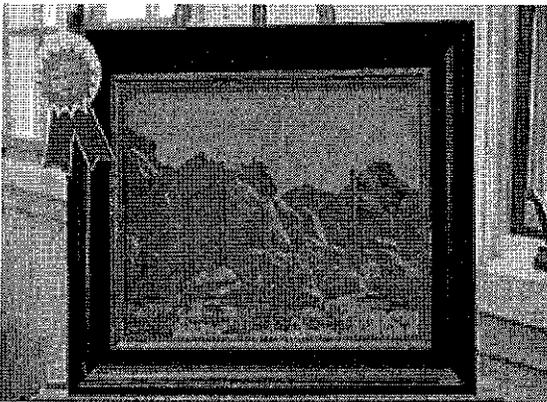
**D. Unfinished Business**

**D.1 Update and Discussion on the Commission’s Fundraising Event of Prize-Winning Paintings from Plein Air Painting Events which was held at the Copperstate Fly-In (October 22 – 24, 2015)**

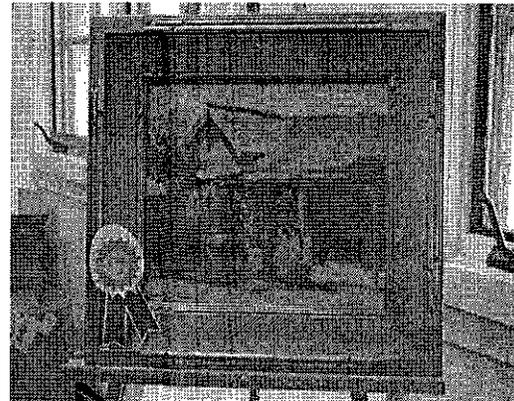
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City Clerk Miller conveyed her appreciation to Member Seaman, her mother, and Chairman Benitez for selling four (4) Prize-Winning paintings at the Copperstate Fly-in as follows:

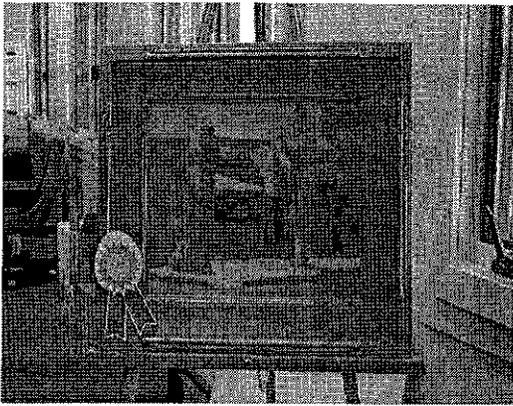
**Result of the Casa Grande Arts & Humanities Commission’s Sale of Prize-Winning Paintings from Recent Plein Air Event Copperstate Fly-In (October 22 thru 24, 2015)  
Casa Grande Municipal Airport - 3225 N. Lear Avenue, Casa Grande, AZ 85122**



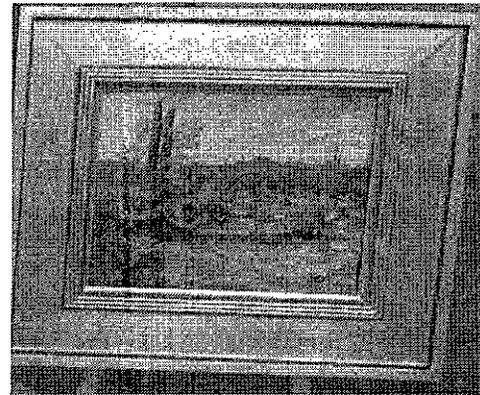
<u>Title</u>	<u>Artist (2013)</u>	<u>Sold</u>
North Mountain Park	Robert Spille Casa Grande, AZ	\$275.00



<u>Title</u>	<u>Artist (2013)</u>	<u>Sold</u>
House with Cactus Plants	Sherri Aldawood Mesa, AZ	\$200.00



<u>Title</u>	<u>Artist (2013)</u>	<u>Sold</u>
Salon	Sherri Aldawood Mesa, AZ	\$200.00



<u>Title</u>	<u>Artist (2014)</u>	<u>Sold</u>
Desert	David Mihalic Missoula, MT	\$250.00

Further, City Clerk Miller relayed that \$925.00 was deposited to the Community Art Funds (110-12-100-102-4801-10000)'

Member Seaman expressed her appreciation to Member Smith for recommending the Copperstate Fly-in as a venue to hold the Fundraising Event.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the organizers at the Copperstate Fly-In were very accommodating and organized with their event.

Member Voyce expressed his appreciation to the volunteers from the Commission who worked the booth at the Copperstate Fly-In event. Their hard work made the Commission's fundraising successful.

City Clerk Miller announced that Chairman Benitez collected the names of individuals who were interested in the next Commission's Plein Air Painting Event Contest. Chairman Benitez shared that one of the attendees of the Copperstate Fly-In relayed that had there been paintings from the youth participant's, she would have purchased a painting. Other individuals suggested having paintings of airplanes, or aeronautical themed paintings.

City Clerk Miller reported that the paintings will be placed for sale at the Casa Grande Main Street Downtown Street Scene and the City of Casa Grande's Centennial Celebration scheduled on Friday, November 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., at Florence Street between Fourth Street and Second Street.

City Clerk further announced that six (6) paintings will be available for sale at this event. Clerk's Staff (Deputy City Clerk, Anna Valenzuela and Office Assistant, Carolina Cortes) will man the booth. If no paintings are sold by 7:30 p.m., the paintings will be transferred to Member Seaman at the BlackBox Foundation located at 413 N. Florence Street to showcase for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Downtown Art Open House.

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that the remaining Prize Winning Paintings are scheduled for Silent Auction at the Mayor's Annual Appreciation Dinner scheduled for November 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at The Property Conference Center.

## **D.2 Update and Discussion on the FY2015-2016 Mini-Grant Program**

City Clerk Miller reported that Deputy City Clerk, Anna Valenzuela has issued all the checks to the 1<sup>st</sup> round Mini-Grant recipients. The checks have also been distributed. Further, City Clerk Miller relayed that the goal is to ensure the 1<sup>st</sup> round Mini-Grant recipients submit report requirements after completion of their project to the Commission.

City Clerk Miller announced that there are two (2) applications received for the second round Mini-Grant proposal. The deadline for the second round is November 19, 2015. Review of Proposals is scheduled for December 2, 2015; Award of Funds is scheduled for December 11, 2015.

In response to Chairman Benitez, City Clerk Miller conveyed the Grant-In Aid Agreement was signed and returned to the Tohono O'odham Nation, and she has not received anything contradicting the fact that the grant was awarded to the Commission.

In response to Member Seaman, City Clerk Miller conveyed that when the Mini-Grant program was initiated, the Grant's purpose is to support the Casa Grande Schools. The grant was based on the premise that it would be a partnership supporting the Casa Grande Schools Teachers to teach Arts (Performing and Visual) to the students.

### **D.3 Update and Discussion on the Commission's Bravo Award Program**

City Clerk Miller reported that she has received three (3) nominations for the Bravo Award. The Bravo Award will be advertised through November 16, 2015. Further, City Clerk Miller relayed that discussion regarding the Bravo Award will continue at the Commission's December 2, 2015 meeting.

In response to Chairman Benitez, City Clerk Miller relayed that it would be acceptable to speak to people one-on-one to inform and encourage nomination for the Bravo Award Opportunity.

City Clerk Miller relayed that the Public Information Officer has advertised the Notice for the Bravo Award via all City methods of advertisement.

#### **E. New Business:**

*It was the consensus of the Commission to discuss New Business Item E.2 at this time, and then proceed with regular sequence of the Agenda.*

### **E.2 Discussion on the Commission's 2016 Annual Plein Air Painting Event**

City Clerk Miller conveyed that in the past the Commission scheduled their Plein Air Painting Contest coinciding with the Community Event "Cowboy and Indian Days" or the "O'Odham Tash Event".

City Clerk Miller announced that the 2016 O'odham Tash event (which includes the Parade) is scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2016. During the Parade, sections of Florence Boulevard will be closed starting at 8:30 a.m. The Parade starts at 10:00 a.m.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that now is the time for the Commission to identify the date and include discussion of the location.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that if the Commission decided to use a new venue for the Plein Air Painting Event contest, there would not be any issues with the parade and partial closure of Florence Boulevard.

In response to Member Packard, City Clerk Miller relayed that the Plein Air Painting Event contest was held at the Women's Club last year, and there were no complaints from participants regarding the street closure. However, there were complaints the year before when registration was held at Casa Grande City Hall.

Member Voyce relayed that it may be a detraction moving the event to a new venue. Further, Member Voyce relayed that the Commission could hand out a sheet that suggested areas of interest for the participants to paint.

City Clerk Miller relayed that these were all good points for discussion; the Commission could have the airport listed as one of the designations to paint.

Member Voyce moved that the Plein Air Painting Event be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Chairman Benitez seconded the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

**E.1** **Review and Discussion on the Commission's  
2016 Annual Ten Minute Play Contest**

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City Clerk Miller provided a draft brochure of the 2016 Ten-Minute Play Contest with the dates and times left blank for the Commission to determine.

Member Voyce inquired if the deadline for submission could be held earlier. This would allow more time for the production and judging review.

Member Smith conveyed that from her understanding of the Ten-Minute Play, the writer of the play is supposed to cast, and also do everything else involved with the production of their play.

In response to Member Smith, Member Seaman conveyed that the protocol of the Ten-Minute play is that the writer cast and doing everything else involved with the production of the play. The protocol turned out to be overwhelming for the writer. Further, Member Seaman relayed that most writers already have actors.

In response to Member Voyce, City Clerk Miller relayed that in a Ten-Minute Mini Play production, the writer is supposed to cast, rehearse, produce, and anything else involved with the production of the play.

Member Seaman relayed that is not correct. City Clerk Miller relayed that is how the event was presented the first year.

Member Voyce relayed that the Commission successfully brokered BlackBox Productions last year.

Member Smith suggested choosing three (3) plays versus seven (7). Chairman Benitez relayed that there were five (5) plays the first year and seven (7) plays for last year. Further, Chairman Benitez conveyed that last years' production was an improvement over the first year.

Member Voyce moved to follow the same format and guidelines from last years' Ten-Minute Play choosing five (5) plays without deviation from the plan. Vice Chairman Packard seconded the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

Chairman Benitez moved that the deadline for submissions be set for February 1, 2016. Member Smith seconded the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

Member Voyce moved to conduct the play on that production scheduled for April 2, 2016. Vice Chairman Packard seconded the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

**E.3                      Review and Discussion on the Information Submitted by  
Global Multi-Instrumentalist Todd Green for Spring 2017**

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City Clerk Miller provided the Commission information from Sarolta Nilsson, Manager of Artistic Promotions Unlimited via email and included in the Agenda Packet. The information is regarding Global Multi-Instrumentalist Todd Green. Mr. Green will be on tour in Arizona during the Spring 2017.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that in order for the Commission to select and authorize Mr. Todd Green to perform in Casa Grande, it would be necessary for her to explore grant opportunities to fund the concert.

It was the consensus of the Commission to instruct City Clerk Miller to obtain a demo tape from Ms. Nilsson of Mr. Green's performance before any further discussions or decisions were made. City Clerk Miller confirmed that if a demo tape is provided, further discussion will be held at the meeting of December 2, 2015.

**E.4 Discussion on Recruitment of Potential Arts and Humanities Members**

City Clerk Miller applauded the Commission for all the work they do. City Clerk Miller relayed that per policy, Members who have terms that have expired are required to serve until their position is replaced.

Per City Ordinance, the Commission shall elect a new Chairman and Vice Chairman at their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in October; however due to several openings this action is postponed.

City Clerk Miller relayed that the three (3) vacancies on the Commission are aggressively being advertised. Further, City Clerk Miller relayed there was one applicant for the Arts and Humanities Commission; however, she was already serving on another committee.

In response to Member Voyce, City Clerk Miller conveyed that there is not a policy that would preclude more than one family member to serve on the Commission.

City Clerk Miller requested for the Commission to assist her in soliciting applicants for the Arts and Humanities Commission.

City Clerk Miller announced as a reminder that the Mayor's Annual Appreciation Dinner is being held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., at The Property Conference Center.

**F. Public Comments:**

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

**G. Adjournment:**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:19 p.m.

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Debbie Benitez  
Chairman

