

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

**A. Call to Order:**

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

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez  
Victor Hammond  
Pamela Runner  
Regis Sommers  
Stacey Seaman

The following members were excused:

Erica Herman  
Susan Wortman

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Anna M. Valenzuela	Deputy City Clerk
Jeannette Rhodes	Applicant for Arts & Humanities Commission
Marge Jantz	Chairman, Historical Preservation Commission
David Rawson	Teacher, PPEP Tech High School

**B. Minutes:**

Member Runner moved to approve the regular minutes of September 3, 2014. Member Hammond seconded the motion was carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

## **C. Reports**

### **C.1 Update on Prop 202 Grant Application to Gila River Indian Community**

City Clerk Miller reported that the Arts and Humanities Commission was not awarded a grant from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) for their Mini-Grant Program. This was the last chance for the Commission to fund the Mini-Grant Program for FY14-15.

In response to Member Runner, City Clerk Miller conveyed that she will continue applying for the Prop 202 grant opportunities for the next fiscal year.

City Clerk Miller announced that the City of Casa Grande Housing Department and the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Committee of Pinal County were some of the recipients of the grants this year from GRIC.

## **D. Unfinished Business:**

### **D.1 Review and Discussion on the Nomination Form and Revised Guidelines for the Commission's Bravo Award Program**

City Clerk Miller presented to the Commission the nomination form created per instruction at the last meeting. The form was created based on the information and suggestions of the Commission. Further, Vice Chairman Benitez reviewed the form and decided not to proceed in revising the guidelines she formatted and presented to the Commission at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Vice Chairman Benitez expressed to City Clerk Miller that the nomination form is more in line with what the Commission was looking for in developing procedures for this award.

The Commission then reviewed each section of the form and offered the following changes:

- Remove year (2014), date and location for reception to honor the recipient since implementation of the program is not yet established.
- Add "age requirement" under eligibility section, and clarify that the candidate must be 18 years or older.

-Member Seaman suggested eliminating the personal demographics on the form, such as date of birth, marital status, information on spouse and children.

-Add on the form the requirement to submit a letter of support for the nomination. It will be the responsibility of the “nominator” to include the letter of support.

It was the consensus of the Commission to utilize the rubric developed by Member Seaman and Vice Chairman Benitez for the judging panel only.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that recommended changes to the form will be incorporated for the Commission’s review and discussion at their December meeting.

**E. New Business**

**E.1 Discussion with Arizona Water Company Regarding the Potential Project to Paint the Water Tank Located at Thornton Road**

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City Clerk Miller reported that the project to paint the water tank located on Thornton Road is identified in the Commission’s Five-Year Arts plan. Per the Commission’s instruction, City Clerk Miller contacted Arizona Water Company to communicate the Commission’s project. Mr. Ray Murrieta, Division Manager for Casa Grande Arizona Water Company agreed to meet with the Commission today, however due to a Doctors’ appointment was not able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Murrieta relayed via e-mail to City Clerk Miller that his intent was to attend the meeting in order to gather information that he could present to Arizona Water Company’s Corporate Office. Mr. Murrieta could not give a “yes” or a “no” regarding the project. He is seeking information from the Commission to provide the project plan to his corporate office.

**DISCUSSION**

City Clerk Miller shared what Mayor Jackson described of the location of the water tank. Mayor Jackson conveyed that the tank is very big and there is not much room, there is only a twelve foot easement.

Member Hammond conveyed that the idea of partnership is for the Arizona Water to provide funding for the project.

Member Runner conveyed that partnership also means that the Commission would be willing to fund some portions of the project. Member Sommers suggested setting limitation to the height (10 feet) of the painting on the tank since it is such a huge tank (1 ½ story high).

Member Hammond suggested painting only a part of the tank, not the entire tank. It should only be the section visible to both directions for people to view and enjoy the painting.

Member Runner suggested having several panels depicting landscape scenery with a major focal point of the painting.

Member Benitez suggested considering Arizona Water to hire an artist to paint the tank.

Member Runner conveyed that painting of this huge tank could be costly.

Member Benitez requested soliciting a cost estimate for painting the tank.

Member Runner expressed concern of how the artist will be able to place the design on the tank considering the size and location of the tank.

Members Sommers conveyed that with the latest technology, artist concepts can be created on a computer and the image can be transformed and applied to the tank.

The Commission acknowledged that volunteers will also be a key to accomplishing this project.

City Clerk Miller explained the process of Call to Artist that may apply to this type of project. The Commission needs to develop the specifications, theme if necessary, materials, budget, etc...to create the Call to Artist.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that Collaboration with Arizona Water Company will be essential in developing the Call to Artist.

Member Sommers conveyed that the theme has to be with “water.” Further, Member Sommers reminded the Commission of the liability to obtain access to the location from the property owner.

Member Benitez would like to incorporate solicitation or input/suggestion from the residents near the water tank.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that it is normally included in the Call to Artist, the research will be conducted by asking the community's input in developing the design. The Commission will also have portions on providing input on how the Commission wants to see the project developed.

City Clerk Miller announced that she will provide Mr. Murrieta the discussion of today's meeting and invite him to the December 3, 2014 meeting.

**E.2 Discussion on the Commission's 2015 Plein Air Painting Event**

City Clerk Miller reported that for the 2015 Cowboy and Indian Days event, the Parade will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend (February 21, 2015) rather than the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. The Commission selected this date for the Plein Air Event to avoid the closure of roads for the Cowboy and Indian Days event that would interfere in the registration for the contest.

Discussion was held regarding keeping the Plein Air event on February 21, 2014, or rescheduling the event to February 14, 2015.

It was the consensus of the Commission to keep the date for the Plein Air Painting Event as February 21, 2015. (The original date scheduled.)

Members Sommers and Runner volunteered to coordinate and run the registration table for the Plein Air Painting Event in 2015.

City Clerk Miller announced that the details of the Plein Air event will be discussed at the meeting of December 3, 2014.

The Commission recognized the possibility of contestants not locating the Women's Club (location for Plein Air Painting Event registration.) They suggested for the City Clerk to provide big signs for direction purposes.

**E.3 Discussion and Consider Continuation of the City of Casa Grande Arts & Humanities Commission Educational Partners Program Mini-Grant**

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City Clerk Miller conveyed that since the Commission did not receive any funding from Tohono O'odham Nation & Gila River Indian Community Prop 202 grant to continue their Mini Grant program, she asked if the Commission will consider utilizing their arts fund to continue the program.

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that funding is not yet allocated for the Commission Plein Air Painting Event and Mini Play contest. The Commission should take into consideration other expense allocations in deciding to continue the Mini-Grant program.

Member Seaman moved to postpone the continuation of the City of Casa Grande Art & Humanities Commission Education Partners Program Mini-Grant. Member Sommers seconded the motion was carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

**E.4 Discussion on Safeguarding and Displaying of the Materials for the Future Railroad Art Plaza**

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Vice-Chairman Benitez referenced the e-mails received from Team Davis/Gross regarding possibly displaying the Future Railroad Art Plaza maquettes downtown. Vice Chairman Benitez suggested the appropriate place is at City facilities.

City Clerk Miller suggested the only possible location to display the maquettes would be at City Hall on the counter space behind the main reception area.

Member Runner expressed concern on the responsibility of safeguarding the maquettes since the Commission or City does not own the materials.

The Design Team of Davis/Gross continuously communicate with the Commission Members and Staff about the project; however at this point due to lack of funding, further development of the project is on hold.

**E.5 Discussion on Updating the “Arts & Humanities Commission – Arts Found Throughout the City” Brochure**

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City Clerk Miller presented the current brochure to the Commission and reported that there were still eight (8) boxes available.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the brochure has been distributed throughout the City Departments. The electronic version of the brochure was posted and available at the City’s website, completed by former City Clerk (Gloria Lejia) on August 7, 2010.

City Clerk Miller asked the Commission if they wished to update the brochure at this time or will updating the website posting at this time be sufficient.

Member Sommers moved to postpone updating the brochure at this time, and ensure remaining copies of brochure are made available at various public locations throughout the City. Member Seaman seconded motion carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

**F. Miscellaneous**

**F.1 Presentation of Appreciation Plaques**

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Vice Chairman Benitez along with City Clerk Miller presented the appreciation plaques to outgoing Members Runner, Sommers, and Hammond. Members Hammond and Runner served two (2) consecutive terms totaling six years serving as Arts & Humanities Commission Members. Member Sommers served one term on the Commission.

City Clerk Miller will present Member Wortman’s plaque at a later time. Member Wortman has served six years on the Arts & Humanities Commission.

City Clerk Miller announced that the Casa Grande City Council at their November 17, 2014 meeting will consider appointments of Seprina Packard, Jeannette Rhodes, Gloria Smith, and Jonathan Voyce to serve on the Arts & Humanities Commission.

**F.2 Reminder Attendance to 2014 Mayor's Annual Appreciation Dinner for City Boards, Commissions & Committees**

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City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission of the 2014 Mayor's Annual Appreciation Dinner for City Boards, Commissions & Committees scheduled for November 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at The Property Conference Center located at 1251 W. Gila Bend Highway, Casa Grande, AZ.

**F.3 Invitation to Participate in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge.**

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City Clerk Miller presented information from Mayor Jackson regarding grant opportunity in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge. Discussion was held regarding various Commission projects that could be potential contenders for the Public Art Challenge.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that Team Davis/Gross contacted the Bloomberg organization to inquire if the Future Railroad Art Plaza project could be a contender for this grant opportunity. The organization relayed that the Future Railroad Art Plaza did not qualify, this particular Art Challenge is for temporary projects.

City Clerk Miller will forward the information to the Commission for review and decision if the Mini-Play or Plein-Air Contests could possibly qualify for the grant.

**G. Public Comments:**

Vice Chairman Benitez called for public comments.

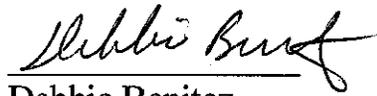
David Rawson offered information regarding the PPEP Tech High School.

Mr. Rawson is a writer, teacher and very interested with the Arts in the Community. Mr. Rawson conveyed that he would like his students to be involved in the Arts. He has many students that are artists and wants to offer them as a resource to the Arts & Humanities Commission.

Mr. Rawson conveyed PPEP Tech offers school credit to the students who volunteer their time to various organizations within the community, and wants to also ensure that they are connected to their community.

**H. Adjournment:**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:48 p.m.



Debbie Benitez  
Vice Chairman