

Regular Meeting

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

A. Call to Order:

Chairman Benitez called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez
Stacey Seaman
Gloria Smith
Seprina Packard
Jonathan Voyce

The following members were excused:

Erica Herman
Jeannette Rhodes

Also present:

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

B. Minutes:

Vice Chairman Packard moved to approve the regular minutes of February 4, 2015. Member Voyce seconded the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Reports:

City Clerk Miller relayed that she is in the process of putting grant submissions together.

The Commission is waiting for a response from the Bloomberg Art Challenge Review Panel, the deadline for Bloomberg to announce finalists is in March.

D. Unfinished Business:

D.1 Review and Discussion of the Completed 2015 Plein Air Painting Event

City Clerk Miller offered results of the 2015 Plein Air Painting Event as follows:

- **Number of Artists Participated:** 19 (Adult = 17 and Youth = 2)

<u>Participants</u>	
Casa Grande	9
Chandler	2
Coolidge	1
Mesa	2
Phoenix	1
Scottsdale	1
Sun City West	3
Total	19

A total of 19 paintings were judged.

- **Judges:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Jeanette Rhodes, Member	Casa Grande Arts and Humanities Commission
Yvonne Johnson, Member	Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association
Susan Ramos, Professor of Art	Central Arizona College
Ralph Varela, Council Member	Casa Grande City Council
David Rawson, Teacher (PPTec HS)	Community Member

City Clerk Miller announced that the checks have issued and been mailed to the winners.

- **Winners:**

ADULT						
Category	Prize	Description	Artist #	FirstName	LastName	
People's Choice	\$ 250.00	Eva's Guardian	2	Melva Elaine	Kinser	Coolidge, AZ
2nd Place	\$ 500.00	Blue Pot	15	Robert	Spille	Casa Grande, AZ
Best of Show	\$ 1,000.00	The Tohono O'Odham Parade	13	Cynthia	Rosen-Malter	Scottsdale, AZ

\$ 1,750.00

YOUTH (under 18 years)						
Category	Prize	Description	Artist #	FirstName	LastName	
People's Choice	\$ 50.00	Joyful Morning	16	Maria	Predtechenskaya	Chandler, AZ
2nd Place	\$ 100.00	Beauty Fountain	10	Hannah	Booth	Casa Grande, AZ
Best of Show	\$ 200.00	Joyful Morning	16	Maria	Predtechenskaya	Chandler, AZ

\$ 350.00

City Clerk Miller announced that the winning paintings will be on display at Casa Grande City Hall through March 16th located at the second floor hallway. Thereafter, display of the paintings at the City's Public Library will be arranged.

Further, City Clerk Miller conveyed that the press release announcing the winners was issued by City's PIO and announcements were posted on the Website.

The picture below contains the winning paintings for the 2015 Plein Air Painting Event.



- **There was no sale of non-winning paintings.**

• **Report on Fees and Expenditures**

Fees: The Arts & Humanities Commission collected a total of **\$360.00** registration fees (17 Adults @ \$20.00 each and 2 Youths @ \$10.00).

Expenditures:

Total Budget for the 2015 Plein Air Painting Event \$2,500.00

Fund Allocation from Arts & Humanities Commission (Prize Award = \$2,100 and Reception = \$400.00) \$2,500.00

Total Expenses: \$2,500.18

Prize Award for Adult	\$1,750.00
Prize Award for Youth	\$ 350.00
Advertising (Notices)	\$ 116.54
Office Max (Supplies)	\$ 15.74
Reception:	\$ 267.90
Safeway (Ice, coffee & snack)	\$ 46.62
Sam's Club (water, napkin, plates, fork/spoon & food)	\$ 105.05
Fry's (Food)	\$ 116.23

Balance (\$ 0.18)

City Clerk Miller reported that Council Member Varela, during the Council Meeting of March 2, 2015, reported on results of the Plein Air Painting Event. The Mayor and Council were all very receptive, and happy with the event and outcome.

City Clerk Miller shared with the Commission e-mails she received from the participants. City Clerk Miller conveyed that she will make note of the suggestions received and will include for consideration for next years' planning of the event.

City Clerk Miller expressed appreciation to the Commission for all their hard work that made this years' event successful. City Clerk Miller stated that submission of only one painting made the process flow smoother and more quickly for the Judges and the presentation of the awards.

The Commission appreciated Staff for organizing the reception, the food selection was great and on budget.

D.2 Discussion on the Commission's Ten-Minute Play Contest

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she has received seven (7) submissions for the Ten-Minute Play Contest. Seventy (\$70.00) was collected for entry fee. City Clerk Miller provided the Commission the list of the top five (5) playwrights.

Member Voyce suggested including all seven (7) playwrights in the production of the play since there were only seven (7) entries received for the 2015 Ten-Minute play.

City Clerk Miller announced that the Commission will need to consider making several adjustments such as adding two more Directors to hire, allocation of additional expense of \$100.00 (\$50.00 per play for director's fee) revising the announcement to include additional plays in the contest, and informing those writers.

Chairman Benitez moved to include all seven (7) entries received for the Ten-Minute Play Contest as finalist for this years' play production. Additionally, approve funds of \$100.00 for Director's fee. Vice-Chairman Packard seconded the motion and was carried with a 4-0 voice vote, with Member Seaman abstaining.

Member Voyce conveyed that since he already read and participated in ranking the entries for the 2015 Ten-Minute play, he will recuse himself from Judging during the contest performance scheduled for March 28, 2015.

Chairman Benetiz volunteered to be a Judge. Member Voyce relayed that he would confer with his wife – Jennie Lee Voyce, since she is an actress and familiar with the Theatre, if she would be willing to serve as a Judge.

Member Seaman announced that she is awaiting confirmation from Mr. John Owens if he is available to serve as a Judge.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she will work with Member Seaman to develop the fliers for this event. Further, City Clerk Miller will have the City Public Information Officer include advertising of the event on all City of Casa Grande avenues, such as the Website, e-mail blast, and Channel 11.

D.3 Update on the Piatigorsky 2015 Concert

City Clerk Miller conveyed the Piatigorsky Foundation have selected the Artists for the 2015 Concert; however have not been able to provide date for the concert. The Foundation will notify the City Clerk as soon as they have a scheduled date for the concert.

E. New Business:

E.1 Presentation and Discussion Regarding Unifying and Bringing Together Disparate Arts Groups in Casa Grande with the Objective of Increased Audience Attendance and Participation

Member Voyce conveyed that he would like for all the different Arts Committees to be brought together in order to involve all of the Arts in the community.

Member Voyce proposed to assist the various Arts grow in a focused manner.

Discussion was held regarding the various Arts in the Community and the roles of the Arts and Humanities Commission in the community. The biggest obstacle identified is that the various Arts do not have a home which makes it difficult to create a calendar of events.

The Commission recognized the need for a building and suggested several vacant buildings around the downtown to see if the owners will lease the space to the disparate arts groups in Casa Grande.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the Commission's goal is to focus on supporting Visual and Performing Arts in the Community. City Clerk Miller stated that searching for buildings and locations for the disparate arts groups is not in their purview.

Further, City Clerk Miller conveyed that the commission is very limited on what they can do, she then offered to present for review the Commissions goals and objectives established by Council that were provided to each member in their binder.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she would confer with the City Attorney for clarification of the functions of the Commission.

City Clerk Miller stated that the powers and duties of the Commission shall be: (a) to recommend City-wide goals and directions to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the visual and performing arts, humanities, and other popular cultural events.”

City Clerk Miller recommended for Members Voyce and Seaman to meet with Mayor Jackson to offer their ideas or suggestions. City Clerk Miller also relayed that the discussion can be continued.

Member Smith suggested the Commission see how other Municipalities completed their Art Centers. Cities of Tempe and Chandler and Phoenix all have Art Centers.

F. Miscellaneous None

G. Public Comments:

Chairman Benitez called for public comments. There were no public comments.

H. Adjournment:

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:38 p.m.



Debbie Benitez
Chairman