

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014**

A. Call to Order:

Chairman Herman called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following member was excused:

Stacey Seaman

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Anna M. Valenzuela	Deputy City Clerk
Marge Jantz	Chairman, Historic Preservation Commission
Rod Wood	Casa Grande Parks Superintendent

B. Minutes:

Member Runner moved to approve the regular minutes of April 16, 2014. Member Wortman seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

C. Reports

C.1 Update on San Carlos Trail School Crosswalk Project Located at the Cook Plaza

Rod Wood, Parks Superintendent reported that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has completed the San Carlos Trail School Crosswalk Project.

Mr. Wood conveyed that last year he was instructed by the Arts and Humanities Commission to determine the possibility of adding a mast arm to the lamp post on the South side for the purpose of lighting the Cook Plaza area. There was no budget identified by ADOT for this addition, however the lighting in the area is much improved. There will always be the fear of vandalism in the area; so far the community seems very appreciative of the project and the plaza.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the solar lighting project came about through the suggestion of the Cook Family. At that time, Mr. Norman Cook expressed interest and suggested a cost analysis of the solar lighting before committing to fund the project.

Further, City Clerk Miller reported that she forwarded the pictures to the artist, Mr. Joe Tyler to inform him of the improved lighting of the plaza that captures some but not all of the sculptures.

City Clerk Miller conveyed she visited the area and presented pictures to the Commission depicting the current lighting of Cook Plaza and the surrounding area. The pictures were taken at 8:00 p.m. without utilizing the “flash” on the camera. The area was well lit, an improvement to the pathway for the community to walk and bike safely. There are a few sculptures not captured by the lights. Possibility of lighting each sculpture still needs to be determined accordingly.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the Artist, Joe Tyler is in agreement with any suggestions regarding installation of solar lighting for the plaza. Mr. Tyler feels that soft light would be acceptable to make the sculptures visible.

City Clerk Miller requested suggestions from Mr. Wood on the type of solar lighting to place on the sculpture and backdrop landscape.

Chairman Herman conveyed that she drove by the area and determined that the lighting is now acceptable and appropriate for the plaza.

Chairman Herman suggested for the Commission to wait until Mr. Cook reviews the improved lighting and offer further suggestions.

City Clerk Miller conveyed at Mr. Cooks' request, she communicated with the Artist who created the sign for the plaza if the wording can be painted to make it visible. Mr. Cook has also volunteered to paint the letters on the sign if it is permissible. Per Mr. Cook the sign cannot be seen during the day and especially not visible at night.

In response to Member Sommers, Mr. Wood conveyed that he did not have a price to add a mast arm to the lamp post at this time.

Member Sommers requested a follow-up from Mr. Wood to predetermine cost for the lighting since this project is listed in the Commissions Five Year Arts Plan.

Mr. Wood conveyed that the City of Casa Grande has a project called "Safe Route to Schools" he is currently working on. The City has applied for grant funding for the project and is still going through the approval process. The project will encompass several areas, one of the areas being located between Saguaro School and Casa Grande Middle School, from Cook Plaza to McMurray.

Mr. Wood also conveyed that San Carlos Irrigation Project owns the easement; therefore they have to give approval for anything that occurs along the pathway.

Chairman Herman thanked Mr. Rod Wood for providing an update to the Commission.

D. Reports:

D.1 Update on the Professional Services Contract with the Artist Design Team for the Future Railroad Art Plaza Project

City Clerk Miller reported that at the May 5th Council Meeting, Council approved the contact with Evelyn Davis and Allen Gross, Artists Design team to develop conceptual design plans and provide a budget estimate for the construction and installation of a Future Railroad Art Plaza. The contract has been executed and there are no issues with the Artists meeting the timeline.

City Clerk Miller announced that the public presentation on the future Railroad Plaza project's being held by Allen Gross and Evelyn Davis at the Museum of Casa Grande on May 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Benitez conveyed that she does not have the data for the Commission to review yet as there is still a need to speak to the individual event planners and stakeholders. Vice Chairman Benitez will present the information on the bi-annual survey to the Commission at their July 2, 2014.

Chairman Herman and Member Sommers thanked Vice Chairman Benitez for her work on this project.

E. New Business

E.1 Discussion on Membership/Fundraiser offered by the Arts and Humanities Commission

Chairman Herman inquired as to whether or not City Clerk Miller had a chance to discuss the legalities of charging for a Membership for the Arts and Humanities Commission.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she was not able to speak to the City Attorney, however she sought guidance from Deputy City Manager Larry Rains. Deputy City Manager Rains expressed offering membership would be problematic due to the fact that the Arts and Humanities Commission is not a 501(c)(3) organization. Deputy City Manager Rains, referred City Clerk Miller to City Attorney Brett Wallace for further clarification and confirmation.

Member Wortman expressed appreciation to Chairman Herman for thinking outside the box regarding fundraising efforts for the Commission.

Chairman Herman requested for City Clerk Miller to confer with City Attorney Brett Wallace regarding offering a membership and report the findings to the Commission.

F. Miscellaneous:

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she and Chairman Herman participated in the City Scene for Channel 11, local TV broadcast. Arts and Humanities Commission is the featured video for May. They offered information on the role of the Commission to the Community. Topics discussed were the various projects that have been completed, projects currently being worked on, as well as future projects the Commission has planned.

City Clerk Miller announced that the interview was aired on May 2nd and available on the City’s Website, Channel 11, and You Tube.

City Clerk Miller encouraged for the Commission to attend the public meeting scheduled for May 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum of Casa Grande located at 110 W. Florence Boulevard. Mr. Allen Gross and Ms. Evelyn Davis will conduct a presentation of the future Railroad Plaza project to the public. The team of Gross and Davis will also solicit suggestions from the public regarding the project. Some of the suggestions may be incorporated into the plan.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she will post a Notice of Quorum of the Arts and Humanities Commission Members attending this meeting.

G. Public Comments:

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

H. Adjournment:

It was the consensus of the Commission not to meet in June if there is no item that required action. Further, the Commission agreed to schedule the July Meeting on July 9, 2014.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:59 p.m.

Erica Herman
/s/Erica Herman
Chairman