

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014**

A. Call to Order:

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

The following members were present:

Victor Hammond
Erica Herman
Debbie Benitez
Pamela Runner
Stacey Seaman

The following members were excused:

Regis Sommers
Susan Wortman

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Anna M. Valenzuela	Deputy City Clerk
Allen Gross	Landscape Architect, Design Team Davis/Gross
Evelyn Davis	Artist, Design Team, Davis/Gross

B. Minutes:

Member Hammond moved to approve the regular minutes of July 9, 2014. Member Runner seconded the motion was carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

C. Reports

None

D. Unfinished Business:

**D.1 Update on the Revised Completed Conceptual Design Plans
and Budget Estimate for the Construction
and Installation of a Future Railroad Art Plaza**

City Clerk Miller provided the revised version of the Completed Conceptual Design Plans and Budget Estimate for the future Railroad Art Plaza to the Commission. The revised version included the lighting component for the sculptures and the incorporation of Citrus, Copper, and Cotton into the design plan components.

City Clerk Miller announced that the artist design team will present the Completed Conceptual Design Plans and Budget Estimates for the Future Railroad Art Plaza, at the City Council Study Session on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The Commission was encouraged to attend the meeting.

City Clerk Miller also reported that the revised total budget estimate for the project is now \$1.7 Million.

City Clerk Miller announced that the Artist Design Team is available to answer any questions.

Vice Chairman Benitez conveyed that while researching the Life on Main project, she noted one of the phases was to transition the antiquated utilities to that region with new utility service. Vice Chairman inquired of the Design Team how they would work around that if they proceeded with the first phase and how the lighting on the project would be affected.

Mr. Gross relayed that the lighting was solar powered, so it is not dependent on the Casa Grande grid, any additional lighting was not part of the scope of work of the contract. There should be supplemental power to support the solar power. There also should be sufficient residential power in the area.

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that the grant was only for the design concept and budget estimate, not for the construction. There is no timeline for construction. The role of the Commission would be to accept the completed design concept and plans.

Vice Chairman Benitez moved to accept the revised Completed Conceptual Design Plan and Budget Estimate for the Future Railroad Art Plaza. Member Runner seconded the motion was carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

**D.2 Update on the Opportunity of Membership/Fundraiser
 Offered by the Arts & Humanities Commission**

City Clerk Miller conveyed after talking with City Attorney Brett Wallace, it was confirmed that the Arts and Humanities Commission is a Commission for the City of Casa Grande, not an independent corporation. Therefore the idea of offering membership will not be possible.

D.3 Update on the Commission’s Bravo Award Program

City Clerk Miller reported that she conferred with Mayor Jackson regarding the incorporation of the presentation of the Commission’s Bravo Award during the Mayor’s established annual events. Mayor Jackson believed that the presentation of the Commission’s Bravo Award should be established on its own as part of the Commission’s events.

Mayor Jackson expressed that the established Mayor’s annual event has limited time and would not be able to accommodate proper presentation to the Bravo Award recipient and their guest.

City Clerk Miller suggested to the Commission to incorporate the Bravo Award presentation at their annual Plein Air Event reception. This event attracts the largest crowd.

Additionally, City Clerk Miller suggested for the Commission to conduct the Bravo Award presentation and reception after one of regular monthly meetings.

Chairman Herman requested further discussion of this item under Item E.3.

E. New Business

E.1 Update on the Commission’s Art Fund

City Clerk Miller offered the review of the Commission’s Arts Fund in order to assist them in scheduling events for the FY14-15.

City Clerk Miller reported that all the expenditures from last fiscal year were processed, except for the final payment of \$1,200.00 to the Artist Design Team Davis/Gross.

City Clerk Miller provided the following report to the Commission:

Community Arts Fund Balance as of 7/31/2014	
Balance (Carry over funds FY 2013-2014)	\$14,336.07
Add: Allocated fund for FY 2014/2015	\$5,000.00
(Less) Final Payment to Artist Design Team Davis/Gross	\$1,2000.00
Total Funds Available for FY2014-2015	\$18,136.07

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the Arts & Humanities Commission has a total of \$18,136.07 available cash to spend to any project the Commission would like to select.

E.2 Consider Marketing Opportunity Suggestion from Artist Design Team Davis/Gross

The Artist Design Team of Davis/Gross presented a fund-raising idea to the Commission. Evelyn Davis reported that molds of the maquettes that were created for the design plan of the Future Railroad Art Plaza are available. Ms. Davis further explained that mold could be poured with the choice of material that the Commission chooses and could be sold or used as a demo model in order to show people to people and raise funds for the project.

Ms. Davis stated that bronze, resin or plaster could be used for the casting material. Plaster is very delicate, breaks and chips easily. Plaster could also be painted to look like bronze. Resin can also be painted to look like bronze. Bronze is ultimately the best choice, but is also the most expensive material.

Mr. Gross conveyed that the cost to cast would approximately be \$3700.00 to cast in bronze. That includes \$1800 for the mold and \$1900 for the casting in bronze. Thereafter, the cost would be \$1900 for each casting.

Mr. Gross explained that casting in resin would follow the same suit. The total in plaster would be a total of \$2000, and that the size could also be changed which would change the cost. Ms. Davis donated her time for the maquettes project.

Chairman Herman suggested that when the projects get to this stage, grant funding opportunity should be considered to fund this process. Chairman Herman expressed that paying for something like this out of the current budget is not possible at this time.

City Clerk Miller expressed appreciation to the Artist Design Team for a great idea; however, this portion was not included in the scope of work. City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that nothing has happened so far at Life on Main Historic Development Plan. As funds are available the construction phase will proceed and the Commission will do another “Call to Artist” for the next phase.

The Commission expressed their appreciation to the Design Team of Davis/Gross for the work they have done so far, and the ideas they have shared.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that after Council’s Study Session she would ascertain whether Council has to accept the plan in a Regular Council Meeting. The presentation at the Council Study Session will provide an update of the current project completion of the design plan and inform of the budget estimate for the Future Railroad Art Plaza.

City Clerk Miller relayed that this is the first step; we will continue to seek grant funding opportunities.

E.3 Discussion and Scheduling of the Commission’s Projects/Events for FY2014-2015

City Clerk Miller reported that she contacted Ms. Kathy LeBlanc of the Piatigorsky Foundation to determine the date and artist for the 2015 Concert in Casa Grande. Ms. LeBlanc stated that the foundation is looking at March calendar; however she did not have a specific date yet. The artist scheduled for March is Mezzo-Soprano Katherine Calcamuggio with a piano accompanist.

The Commission reviewed and discussed other non-profit organization’s community calendar of events for fiscal year 2014-2015 to determine dates in scheduling their events.

It was the consensus of the Commission to hold their 2014-2015 events as follows:

Plein Air Event	February 21, 2015
10 Minute Mini-Play	March 7, 2015
Piatigorsky Concert	Date in March TBD

City Clerk Miller conveyed that there are paintings (Best in Show) from previous plein air painting events that can be auctioned for fundraising. She recommends October or November 2014 as a good time to conduct an auction since the Commission has no planned events during this period.

Chairman Herman conveyed that she could arrange to have the event held at Bedillions Cactus Garden in October, at no cost. Hors d'oeuvre would be provided, and there is a band already scheduled to play there. Chairman Herman announced that she would speak to Mr. Jackson to confirm using the patio at Bedillions and ensuring a band would be there.

Vice Chairman Benitez conveyed that she has developed a process for the Bravo Award Program to present to the Commission for review and consideration. Vice Chairman Benitez and Member Seaman agreed to create a process and criteria for the Bravo Award Program and have it ready for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

Member Seaman inquired if there was money in the budget to fund Mini-Grants to assist Casa Grande teachers this year.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she has applied for Prop 202 Grant to Tohono O'odham and Gila River Indian Community to fund the Commission's Mini Grant Program. The grant award decision for Prop 202 will be announced sometime in October or November. City Clerk Miller relayed that she would put the item on the Agenda for discussion as soon as she received an answer.

City Clerk Miller announced that should the Commission desire to take on additional projects for FY2014-2015, she will include at the next Commission's meeting, the review of potential projects listed on the Commission's five year arts plan.

Member Runner moved to accept the tentative dates for Commission's 2014-2015 events. Member Hammond seconded motion and was carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

F. Miscellaneous

City Clerk Miller announced that the Mayor's Appreciation Dinner for the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees is scheduled for November 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., location yet to be determined.

Member Seaman announced that the Black Box Theatre is currently holding theatre classes for both youths and adults.

Member Benitez conveyed that the Strings of the Sonoran would appreciate a letter of support from the Arts and Humanities Commission. The Strings of the Sonoran is in the process of applying for a grant through Wells Fargo.

City Clerk Miller relayed that she would follow-up on that request and get back to Vice Chairman Benitez as soon as possible.

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 5:26 p.m.

Erica Herman

/s/Erica Herman

Chairman