

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015**

A. Call to Order:

Chairman Benitez called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez
Seprina Packard
Jeannette Rhodes
Gloria Smith

The following members were excused:

Erica Herman
Stacey Seaman
Jonathan Voyce

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Anna M. Valenzuela	Deputy City Clerk
Yvonne Johnson	Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association

B. Minutes:

Chairman Benitez moved to approve the regular minutes of March 4, 2015. Member Smith seconded the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Reports:

C.1 Update on Grant Opportunities

City Clerk Miller conveyed that on March 31, 2015 she submitted two (2) grant applications to the Gila River Indian Community Proposition 202. One of the submissions was for the Mini Grant Program with a request for the amount of \$10,000. The other submission was for the Railroad Art Plaza for the amount of \$65,000. Gila River has a four stage review process when determining who will qualify for the grant submission funding.

City Clerk Miller further relayed that she is still working on the grant application for the Tohono O’odham Nation. The deadline for the grant is June 12, 2015.

City Clerk Miller extended her gratitude to the Artist Team of Davis and Gross and also to Mary Allen, the City of Casa Grande Grant’s Coordinator for all the assistance they have given her writing the grants.

City Clerk Miller announced that the Arts & Humanities Commission was not awarded the Bloomberg Philanthropies grant. City Clerk Miller also wanted to extend her gratitude to Member Seaman for all the work she did writing the proposal.

D.1 Review and Discussion of the Completed 2015 Concert of The Piatigorsky Foundation

City Clerk Miller reported that the 2015 Piatigorsky Foundation concert was held at the Paramount Theatre on April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The Piatigorsky Foundation was paid the Commission’s approved Honorarium fee of \$250.00.

Further, City Clerk Miller reported the day performance concert for the Casa Grande Schools was cancelled, due to mandatory testing the school was undergoing. City Clerk Miller and the Foundation both agreed that in the future the concert will be held in January.

Member Smith along with Chairman Benitez and Member Rhodes relayed that they attended the concert and that it was a wonderful production with very talented artists.

D.2 Review and Discussion of the Completed Ten-Minute Play Contest

City Clerk Miller reported the following:

Per the Commission’s approval all seven (7) entries received was included for the Ten-Minute Play Contest as finalists for this years’ play production. They are as follows:

Title of the Play	Writer
Pass the Equal Rights Amendment	Yvonne E. Johnson
Sunset in the Park	Bill Alewyn
Leabeg	Patrick Cash
Memories	Stephanie M. Campos
War Birds	Brandon Smith
The Invisible Weather Boy and the Girl With Two Faces	David Rawson
Dopey Daddy	Keith Seaman

The winners of the contest are as follows:

Name of Writer	Award Category	Winning Play	Amount
Bill Alewyn	Grand Prize	“Sunset in the Park	\$500.00
Yvonne Johnson	Audience Favorite	“Pass the Equal Rights Amendment”	\$100.00
		Total	\$600.00

The expenditures involved in the Ten-Minute Play Contest are as follows:

Entry Fees Collected (7 play submissions @ \$10.00 each)		\$ 70.00
Total Expenses:		\$1,143.86
Prize Award for 2015 Contest	\$ 600.00	
Director’s Fee for 7 playwright @ \$50.00 each (Kenneth Ferguson-2, Stacey Seaman, Anthony Reyna, Jennifer Whiteway, Laura Deall & Kyle Doerges)	\$350.00	
Rental of Chairs (High Grade Rentals)	\$55.33	
Advertising (Notices)	\$138.53	
		(\$1,073.86)

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she was not able to attend the Ten-Minute Play Contest due to illness; she deferred further review of the Ten-Minute Play to Chairman Benitez.

Chairman Benitez reported that the play was well attended, with attendance being approximately 113 attendees. Chairman Benitez also relayed that the BlackBox Foundation did a wonderful job producing the plays. Chairman Benitez also relayed that Member Voyce was Master of Ceremonies for the event, and did an excellent job.

Discussion was also held regarding having more participation from residents for next year, especially from the schools.

City Clerk Miller relayed that the contest was opened to full and part time Arizona residents.

It was the consensus of the Commission to include discussion on the results of Ten-Minute Play Contest on the Agenda of June 3, 2015 in order for Member Seaman to provide recap of the event and discuss the plan for next year's contest.

D.3 Review and Discussion on the Nomination Form and Judging Criteria for the Commission's Bravo Award Program

Member Smith requested to table this item at the next meeting when all members are present.

Chairman Benitez suggested conducting a study session on this item at the June meeting.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the Commission could have the regular meeting from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m., and then begin the study session on the Bravo Award at 4:30 p.m.

City Clerk Miller announced that Deputy City Clerk Valenzuela will send an e-mail to all Members to obtain feedback on conducting the study session prior to the regular meeting of June 3, 2015.

E. New Business:

E.1 Discussion on Selling as Fundraiser the Commission's Prize-Winning Paintings from the Previous Plein Air Event

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she has been thinking of projects the Commission could take on as possible fund-raisers. The winning paintings were from 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. There are a total of 18 winning paintings the commission can auction and/or sell.

Member Smith suggested auctioning off the paintings at Western Trading Post. Jim Olson is the owner and frequently holds auctions for various events at his location.

Chairman Benitez agreed to contact Mr. Olson regarding possibly auctioning the Plein Air Contest winning paintings from the Commission's event.

Member Rhodes reported that she was approached by the Manager of Mimi's Café Restaurant about "Working Canvas and Cocktails Event" and seeking an organization for partnership. At this event customers could watch painters paint, while enjoying cocktails and appetizers. Once the Artist has completed the painting, a silent auction could be held in order to sell the paintings.

City Clerk Miller relayed that the Commission has had an event like this in the past at Bedillions Cactus Gardens and sold the paintings at a Silent Auction.

In response to Member Rhodes, City Clerk Miller conveyed that Casa Grande Valley Fine Arts Association (CGVFAA) would be the appropriate organization for Mimi's Café Restaurant "Canvas and Cocktails" event. City Clerk Miller suggested for Member Smith, being a member of CGVFAA to report this partnership opportunity to her organization.

Chairman Benitez suggested getting a booth at the Street Fair which is held in January to sell the paintings.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that planning fundraising events involves partnerships, commitment, and participation of the Commission Members in order to make it successful.

City Clerk Miller volunteered to contact Rina Rein from Casa Grande Main Street to inquire having a booth at the next Street Fair and possibly getting a booth near the event stage for visibility to attract buyers.

F. Public Comments:

Chairman Benitez called for public comments.

Ms. Yvonne Johnson expressed her thoughts regarding the recent Piatigorsky Concert, who's whole purpose it to provide free concerts for those who would not normally be able to attend.

Ms. Johnson reported that she was approached by Staff of the Paramount Theatre at the door with a \$10.00 ticket and felt under obligation to pay for the concert. Ms. Johnson inquired if perhaps a new venue should be sought for the Piatigorsky concert in the future.

Member Benitez thanked Ms. Johnson for her input.

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission that the item could not be discussed because it was not on the Agenda. City Clerk Miller suggested including discussion of the issue at the next Commission meeting.

G. Adjournment:

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:17 p.m.


Debbie Benitez
Chairman