

Regular Meeting

**ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
510 E. FLORENCE BOULEVARD, CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015**

A. Call to Order:

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

The following members were present:

Debbie Benitez
Jeannette Rhodes
Gloria Smith
Jonathan Voyce

The following members were excused:

Erica Herman
Stacey Seaman
Seprina Packard

Also present:

Remilie S. Miller	City Clerk
Anna M. Valenzuela	Deputy City Clerk
Berlin Loa	Director, The Museum of Casa Grande/Casa Grande Valley Historical Society
Yvonne Johnson	Artist

B. Minutes:

Member Voyce moved to approve the regular minutes of July 1, 2015. Chairman Benitez seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

C. Reports: None

D. Unfinished Business

D.1 Update on the Commission's Prize-Winning Paintings from the Previous Plein Air Event that will be Auctioned at the Western Trading Post.

City Clerk Miller expressed appreciation to Member Gloria Smith and former Member Regis Sommers for their assistance in appraising the Prize-Winning paintings from the previous Plein Air Events.

Member Smith suggested placing a reserve on the two (2) paintings to be auctioned at the Western Trading Post. Member Smith explained that by placing a reserve amount on the paintings, the auctioneer has to start the bid based on the reserve price.

Chairman Benitez inquired if this information had yet been relayed to Mr. Olson from Western Trading Post.

In response to Chairman Benetiz, City Clerk Miller conveyed that she has not had a chance to talk to Mr. Olson.

City Clerk Miller reported that Mayor Jackson approved for the Arts and Humanities Commission to conduct a silent auction of the paintings at the Mayor's 2015 Boards, Commissions, and Committees 23rd Annual Appreciation Dinner scheduled for November 18, 2015 at the Property Conference Center.

Member Smith requested to include the information regarding the silent auction in the invitations.

In response to Member Smith, City Clerk Miller conveyed that she would check with Mayor Jackson and report back to the Commission.

Further, City Clerk Miller reported that she spoke to the Airport Manager, Richard Wilkie on the possibility of placing some of the prize winning Plein Air paintings on the walls of the new Café. Mr. Wilkie advised that he would not be able to ensure the safety of the paintings.

E. New Business:

E.1 Presentation and Consider Approval of Casa Grande Valley Historical Society Museum Temporary Quarterly Exhibits for 2015-2016 Season located at the City Human Resources/Finance Departments.

Berlin Loa, Director of The Museum of Casa Grande/Casa Grande Valley Historical Society offered a presentation regarding continuation of providing temporary exhibits in the City Finance and Human Resources building on a quarterly basis for the 2015-2016 seasons.

The contract with lists of artifacts was provided in the agenda packets for the Commission's review.

The listed exhibits and artifacts will be loaned and displayed to the City of Casa Grande:

Exhibits:

- July 2015 – November 2015 “City Centennial”:
Celebrating the 1915 incorporation of Casa Grande
- November 2015 – February 2016 “Aeronautic Adventures”:
History of flight and airports in Casa Grande
- February 2016 – April 2016 “O’odham Tash/Cowboy & Indian Days: Collaboration of Cultures in the West”, a brief history of this local tradition
- April 2016 – June 2016 “Historic Cameras”: Cameras, featuring photography of Jim Gorraiz

Artifacts:

- Captain’s Fire Helmet (red) and Fire Chief Pin
- Cotton bales from exhibit
- O’odham Tash Belt Buckle, Art Carlton
- Commemorative Arizona License Plate, Santa Cruz mine project
- Hoemako-Casa Grande Regional Hospital pin and ribbon
40th Anniversary
- Francisco Grande, small pamphlet
- Cotton Sack

- Cash Register, Cruz Trading Post
- Francisco Grande, match books
- Lydia E. Pinkham's container
- Pinex Container
- Colgate Soap container
- Hoemako Hospital, Newborn t-shirt
- O'odham Tash Bolo Tie
- Carbide Lamp (empty)
- Ivory Flakes, soap container
- Francisco Grande, large pamphlet
- Advertisement
- Breath-O-Life oxygen tanks (empty)
- Copper relief of State of Arizona
- O'odham Tash Bracelet

Director Loa provided pictures of the displays for the Commission to view.

Further, Director Loa announced that the exhibits would be rotated between the City Finance/Human Resources Department display case and the display case located at the Casa Grande Municipal Airport.

Director Loa conveyed that there would not be a cost associated with the displays to the Arts and Humanities Commission or the City of Casa Grande.

Member Smith moved to approve the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society Museum Temporary Quarterly Exhibits for 2015-2016 season located at the City Finance/Human Resources Departments. Member Rhodes seconded the motion and was carried with a 4-0 voice vote.

E.2 Discussion and Consider Approval of Mini Grant Program for Casa Grande Schools for Fiscal Year 2015-2015

City Clerk Miller referred to the meeting of July 1, 2015 when she announced that the Commission was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Gila River Indian Community's Prop 202 funding. City Clerk Miller announced that the award of funds are usually done in September or October.

For the benefit of the new Commission Members, City Clerk Miller explained that through the Mini Grant Program, the Commission Partners with Casa Grande School Teachers to make available funds to enrich students' concept of the Arts and Humanities. These include public, private, and charter schools. City Clerk Miller suggested that the Commission review the information and offer any updates or changes needed.

Further, City Clerk Miller relayed that the word "Art" was incorporated into the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum. Teachers will apply for funding on art related projects incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math curriculum.

City Clerk Miller asked for feedback from the Commission on whether or not she should proceed with the announcement of the Mini Grant Program and advertising now or wait until the grant money is received from Gila River Indian Community.

Member Smith inquired who she could forward the Lennon Family Foundation Arts Grant information which provides funding for those schools that do not have funding for Art programs.

City Clerk Miller requested for Member Smith to e-mail her the information regarding the Lennon Family Grant opportunity and she would forward it to the City of Casa Grande Grants Coordinator for review.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the Public Notice regarding the Mini Grant would be posted on the City's Website, local TV Channel, advertise in the newspaper, and will be distributed to all the schools. Further, City Clerk Miller announced that she sends the notice to past applicants and the school Superintendents. City Clerk Miller also encouraged the Commission Members to let any teachers know about the Mini Grant.

Member Voyce moved to approve the announcement of the Commission's Mini Grant Program immediately, accept the forms and schedule as presented. Member Rhodes seconded and was carried with a 4-0 vote.

E.3 Discussion and Consider Approving Call to Artist for Conducting Workshop on Playwriting.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that should the Commission elect to take on a new project, it has to be by a majority vote of the Commission. Further, City Clerk Miller conveyed that a budget would have to be allotted while keeping in mind that there are other projects the Commission already committed the funds to.

Discussion was held by the Commission regarding the Guidelines on the Call to Artist for conducting a workshop on playwriting.

The Commission reviewed the draft notice and offered changes to the Commission's Notice for the Call to Artists seeking an accomplished playwright to conduct a free public workshop on the Art of 10-Minute Play Writing.

- **Project Description:**

- a) Conduct a two-hour public workshop on the Art of 10-Minute Play Writing.
- b) The workshop should be geared towards beginners to intermediate writers.
- c) Budget for the workshop is not to exceed _____, includes all expenses; e.g., materials, printing, travel, etc.
- d) Workshop will be conducted on November 14, 2015 at the City Parks & Recreation Building, 404 E. Florence Boulevard, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Member Voyce Moved to approve the budget for \$200.00 for the Call to Artist. Member Smith seconded the motion and was carried with a 4-0 voice vote.

Member Voyce moved to approve the date November 14, 2015 as the date for the workshop. Member Smith seconded the motion and was carried with a 4-0 voice vote.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that Deputy City Clerk Valenzuela had tentatively reserved the Parks and Recreation educational rooms for the initial schedule of events provided by Member Seaman. Further, City Clerk Miller will check with the school district to utilize the auditoriums of Casa Grande Middle School and Vista Grande High School.

Director Loa suggested utilizing Heritage Hall, for the playwriting class and suggested conducting the class in the morning.

Chairman Benitez and the Commission thanked Director Loa for her generous offer.

- **Eligibility:**

It was the consensus of the Commission to indicate “Accept proposals from all playwrights” for the eligibility.

- **Guidelines for the Project:**

Submit the following to the City of Casa Grande, City Clerk, 510 E. Florence Boulevard, Casa Grande AZ 85122):

- a) Statement of Interest, including a brief narrative description of your ideas and potential outline for the workshop.
- b) Resume (experience & training)
- c) Cost for the workshop

- **Criteria for Selection (Must meet one or more of the following):**

- a) Experience conducting 10-minute playwriting classes or workshops
- b) A degree in playwriting or creative writing
- c) An award-winning 10-minute or short play playwright
- d) Experience of having participated in or organizing 10-minute plays festivals.
- e) Availability to conduct the workshop for the specified time period
- f) Cost for the workshop

It was the consensus of the Commission to accept the above guidelines and criteria as presented, making it clear that proposal includes all expenses (supplies, travel, material, and construction of workshop).

City Clerk Miller reviewed the project schedule as follows:

Anticipated Project Schedule:

- a) Submit application materials by September 15, 2015 to the City Clerk.
- b) The Arts & Humanities Commission will review & select the proposal at their October 7, 2015 meeting.
- c) Selected applicant will be notified by October 8, 2015.
- d) Free Public Workshop will be conducted on November 14, 2015 at the City Parks & Recreation Building, 404 E. Florence Boulevard, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Member Voyce moved to approve the Call to Artist for Conducting Workshop on Playwriting with all the changes recommended. Member Smith seconded the motion and was carried with a 4-0 voice vote.

City Clerk Miller announced that the notice for the Call to Artist for Conducting Workshop on Playwriting will be posted on the City's Website, local television, the Arizona Commission on the Art's Website, and advertised once in the newspaper.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that once the Commission reviewed and selected the facility, she would start publicizing the event by October 8, 2015. Chairman Benitez suggested involving the schools. City Clerk Miller relayed that she would consult with Mr. Hebda to inquire if the schools could be utilized.

F. Public Comments:

Chairman Benitez called for public comments. Yvonne Johnson offered comments regarding the Mini Grant process.

Ms. Johnson relayed that the grant timetable was originally set up according to when school commences for the year. Further, Ms. Johnson relayed that half the semester has passed by the time the funds are distributed, and moving the timetable up since school starts as early as the first week of August now.

City Clerk Miller relayed that when the City applies for grants, the timetable is at the discretion of the agency issuing the grant.

Ms. Johnson conveyed that perhaps someone from the City could articulate the fact that with schools starting so early, perhaps they would consider moving the timetable up, closer to the start of school.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that the City goes by the grantor's plan, if it is deemed necessary to ask for an extension, she would be willing to do so.

Member Voyce conveyed that Ms. Johnson is trying to relay that early start date of school changes the entire dynamics of the teachers planning.

City Clerk Miller conveyed that she does not have any control over how the grantor disburses the grant money.

G. Adjournment:

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.


Debbie Benitez
Chairman