



Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Public Arts Commission
of the City of Palm Springs

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 this meeting was conducted by teleconference and there was no in-person public access to the meeting location.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Regular Meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Merrigan on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Gary Armstrong, Shawnda Faveau, Matthew Lesniak, Barrett Newkirk, Russell Pritchard, and Chair Tracy Merrigan

City Staff

Present: Jay Virata, Director, Community & Economic Development

C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Lesniak, to accept the Public Arts Commission agenda dated February 23, 2022, as presented; unanimously carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Janelle Hunt spoke in favor of the restoration of the mural at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.

Jarvis Crawford spoke in favor of the restoration of the mural at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.

Jodie Diaz spoke in favor of the restoration of the mural at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.

There were no other public comments.

E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Merrigan commented favorably on the recent Art Fair; spoke about arts professionals in the area; discussed upcoming museum pop-up events; talked about art in the pit and stressed that the Public Arts Commission is committed to giving any advice City Council desires, is dedicated to creating dynamic and engaging community-spirited public arts in Palm Springs and wants that acknowledged. Additionally, she addressed a meeting with the head of the Libraries who would like the Public Arts Commission to do a project with them.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL:

1. Discuss/Approve participation in OnePS Picnic 2022 March 19 for a cost of \$1800.00 for materials and supplies, cost sheet attached.

Commissioner Lesniak reported working with Commissioner Newkirk to develop a budget for the OnePS Picnic 2022 on March 19, 2022; discussed the proposed budget is \$1800 and addressed the possibility of having an artist on site.

Commissioner Newkirk felt this is a good opportunity for the Public Arts Commission for public outreach.

Chair Merrigan suggested adding another \$500 to enlist two local artists to participate.

Commissioner Pritchard spoke against having artists participate and felt the Commission's participation should be informational.

Chair Merrigan hoped the City Manager would pay for this and fast track it without having to appear before City Council.

Commissioner Armstrong suggested developing something that is engaging for participants such as face-painting for children.

Commissioner Pritchard reported some printers will invoice the City, directly, on an approved budget.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Chair Merrigan, to move forward with the picnic on March 19, 2022 and approve \$2300 for materials and supplies, unanimously carried.

2. Update on PS Museum Loan at airport, maintenance, bench program

Chair Merrigan reported the museum loan is due; noted documents have been sent to the City Attorney to work on paperwork for a new loan; talked about the museum being short-staffed and stated the intent to change the art at the Palm Springs International Airport. She added she is in the process of setting up a meeting for a tour of the airport and asked colleagues to let her know if they are interested in participating. Chair Merrigan addressed a meeting with the City's Maintenance Department where the bench program was discussed; reported the Public Arts Commission is not responsible for maintenance of "The Rainmaker"; noted the paint on the metal portion has been stripped and indicated the City is asking the Commission to pay to restore the metal parts. Additionally, relative to the bench program, the City is concerned some of the benches have aged badly and suggested phasing restoring/painting them and asking businesses to sponsor them to help with maintenance costs.

3. Appraisals of public art works
 - Discuss/Approval for Nail-to-Nail LLC to conduct a fine art appraisal on:
 - Wave Rhythms by John Mishler, 2006, Sunrise Park
 - Charlie Farrell by George Montgomery, 1997, PS Airport grounds

- Totem Pole by the Hunt Family, Victoria Park
- Standing Women by Felipe Castaneda, 1983, Village Green
- Whirlwind by Gary Slater, 2006, Ruth Hardy Park
- Contract up to \$5000.00. Proposal attached.

Chair Merrigan referenced a list of public fine arts to appraise to determine the value of each and how to move forward.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Chair Merrigan, to approve a contract for \$5,000 for Nail-to-Nail LLC to conduct appraisals for the aforementioned pieces of public art, unanimously carried.

4. Discuss/Approve flag replacement (first replacement completed) for Taming of Horses by Christopher Meyers by Rice Construction for \$1691.00. See attached.

Chair Merrigan discussed the loaned piece, "Taming of Horses" and reported the flags have been replaced.

Commissioner Faveau noted that when the piece was first obtained, it included three sets of flags.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to approve the first flag replacement (second set of flags) costs for "Taming of Horses" by Christopher Meyers by Rice Construction for \$1,691, carried with Commissioner Faveau, abstaining.

5. Discuss/Pre-Approve flag replacement (second replacement if needed) for Taming of Horses by Christopher Meyers by Rice Construction for \$1691.00 based on first replacement cost.

Chair Merrigan explained this item will ensure a second replacement (third set) of flags, if needed, for "Taming of Horses" by Christopher Meyers for \$1,691, based on the first replacement cost.

Commissioner Pritchard explained the first replacement was made and the Commission is hereby pre-approving installation of a second replacement (third set), if needed.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to pre-approve second installation of flags (third set if needed) for Taming of Horses by Christopher Meyers by Rice Construction for \$1691.00 based on first replacement cost, carried with Commissioner Faveau, abstaining.

6. Discuss/Approve maintenance lighting update for "Fault Line" by Jevpic/John Perry. Original 2020 cost \$3500, maintenance 4/21 \$2400, cost total-to-date \$5900.00. See attached.
 - Supply cost \$1306.20
 - Labor cost \$540.00

Chair Merrigan reported on the item and explained the requested additional costs.

Commissioner Armstrong stated he loves the piece but was disappointed there was no letter of agreement with the artist; believed there should be something on file that addresses responsibility and liability and suggested requiring a letter from the artist stating the City's responsibility and the artist's responsibility if the item is approved.

Commissioner Lesniak reported on the receipt of a letter from the owner of the pit, Michael Braun stating the City may use it for two years, which ended in January in 2021. He noted the need to ensure to get a letter of permission from Mr. Braun to continue using it.

Commissioner Pritchard suggested tabling this item and Item No. 7 in order to get the necessary documents in place that the Commission is requesting.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Commission is interested in keeping the piece lit, at night and members of the Commission concurred that keeping the piece lit, at night enhances its presentation.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to table this item until the next regular meeting of the Public Arts Commission. unanimously carried.

7. Discuss/Approve restoration of "Line Segments" by Ryan Campbell mural in the pit downtown. Original 2019 cost \$24,500.00. See attached.
 - Option A - \$8,000.00
 - Option B - \$10,000.00

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to table this item until the next regular meeting of the Public Arts Commission. unanimously carried.

8. Discuss/Approve "Art is Everywhere" neighborhood grant relaunch for 2022 season for five grants of up to \$5000.00 per grant, for a total of \$25,000. See attached.

Chair Merrigan introduced the item.

Commissioner Newkirk proposed relaunching the community grant program with an initial round of grants; five \$5,000 grants. Once they are approved, the Commission can assess how to move forward with additional grants. He discussed outreach and the application process.

Commissioner Pritchard expressed support for the item.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to approve "Art is Everywhere" neighborhood grant relaunch for 2022 season for five grants of up to \$5000.00 per grant, for a total of \$25,000, unanimously carried.

9. Discuss/Approve holding a Public Arts Commission meeting at James O Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center in March. This will be the first Public Arts Commission community outreach meeting since the onset of COVID. Prior community outreach meetings have been held by the full commission at the Palm Springs Art Museum, Desert Arts Center and

convention center. The entire commission has valued the opportunity to receive community input at these meetings and to bring discussion on public arts subjects to the community in which they are most meaningful.

Community Outreach Meeting and Discussion:

- Richard Wyatt mural restoration and associated costs
- Additional public art/mural options
- Additional public input meetings

Chair Merrigan discussed the item and suggested holding community meetings and asked the Commission to provide suggestions as to meeting dates and venues.

Commissioner Pritchard agreed with scheduling community input meetings.

Commissioner Faveau noted that Mara Gladstone has held community meetings on the subject.

Chair Merrigan reported there has never been a public meeting about the topic.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of holding community meetings near the mural and scheduling the first meeting for March 16, 2022.

Commissioner Pritchard urged the Commission to schedule an in-person community meeting, outdoors, near the mural site.

Commissioner Newkirk suggested holding the meeting at the Community Center.

Commissioner Faveau reported the community has requested that meetings be after 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Lesniak felt that holding the meeting on site, during the day, is important and suggested scheduling it on a Saturday morning.

Discussion followed regarding having Commissioner Faveau obtain information regarding whether the community could meet on a Saturday.

Chair Merrigan opened public comments.

Jarvis Crawford asked the Commission to send potential dates and times for the meeting and he will determine whether the Community Center is available.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Lesniak, to hold a community meeting to discuss the restoration of the mural at James O Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center in March, unanimously carried.

10. Main St/Rainmaker update Commissioner Lesniak

Commissioner Lesniak provided an update on "The Rainmaker"; noted it is the City's responsibility; reported the wiring needs to be redone because of flooding; stated funding has been requested but the City has not yet approved it; mentioned the need to repair the fountain next to the Sonny Bono statue and added that he has not heard anything relative to Measure J.

Chair Merrigan reported receiving many letters from the community regarding "The Rainmaker" and spoke about forming an ad hoc committee of residents to obtain community input to forward to City Council.

Commissioner Lesniak commented on an upcoming Chalk Art Festival in front of the museum and felt it would be interesting for the Commission to be involved.

Director, Community & Economic Development Virata reported the festival is on March 24, 2022.

11. Discuss commissioner ideas for new projects, discussion will continue monthly.

Commissioner Armstrong provided a summary of his and Commissioner Pritchard's proposal and noted additional information will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Lesniak commented on acknowledging people in the community who have been influential in developing the community, such as Julia Cornell, who built the plaza.

Regarding moving the John Clement sculptures, Chair Merrigan felt this is a good opportunity to group the John Clement sculptures, together and install them on proper pads.

Commissioner Lesniak expressed concerns regarding an existing base on Palm Canyon Drive and wondered if costs should include its removal as well as removal of the front lawn and restoration of the areas where the sculptures are currently placed.

Discussion followed regarding placing an appropriate piece on the existing large pad, having members of the Commission review possible new locations for the John Clement sculptures and share ideas at the next Commission meeting.

There was Commission consensus to move forward with the project.

12. Receive budget update for 2020/2021.

Chair Merrigan reported staff sent the Commission an update on the 2020/2021 budget.

G. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF: None

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Lesniak reported he has requested contracts on temporary art.

Chair Merrigan requested a list and reported some items will not have contracts or artist agreements. In addition, she commented on the possibility of changing the Commission meeting time to earlier than 5:30 p.m. (i.e., 4:00 p.m.) to allow the City Manager to attend meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to adjourn the meeting; unanimously carried.

The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 7:04 p.m. to a Regular Meeting on March 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via teleconference.