



Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Minutes of the Regular 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, March 16, 2022, at 4:00 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:

Chair Merrigan added an update to the OnePS picnic under Item H5.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Lesniak, to accept the agenda for March 16, 2022 with the addition of the OnePS Picnic to Item H5, unanimously carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Levine, Rotary Club, discussed the upcoming Palm Springs Chalk Festival; thanked the City for its continued support and invited City Council and the public to attend.

There were no other public comments.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2022

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Newkirk, to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2022, as corrected, unanimously carried.

F. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Merrigan thanked everyone for their work; provided an update on priorities and accomplishments; discussed an upcoming outreach event and suggested that within the next few months, the Commission provide ideas to propose to City Council.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. (Continued from 2/23 meeting) 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
2. (Continued from 2/23 meeting) 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

Commissioner Pritchard reported contacting Michael Braun; stated approval of the two pieces is likely; noted Mr. Braun wanted his attorney to weigh in on any legal or liability issues and felt it is important for the Commission to approve the budget and move the project forward before the heat of the summer.

Discussion followed regarding the possible need for additional maintenance, getting an agreement from the artists that maintenance will need to take place until termination, at the end of December 31, 2023.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to approve maintenance lighting update for “Fault Line” by Jevpic/John Perry, as the final maintenance budget for the piece, ending December 31, 2023, unanimously carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Newkirk, to approve Option A for the restoration of “Line Segments” by Ryan Campbell mural in the pit downtown, as the final maintenance budget for the piece, ending December 31, 2023, unanimously carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss/Approve Palm Springs Chalk Festival Sponsorship of city fees up to \$2000.00. Commission has covered these fees for past festivals.
<https://www.palmspringschalkartfestival.com/sponsor>

Chair Merrigan presented background and an update on the upcoming Palm Springs Chalk Festival.

Discussion followed regarding continuing to sponsor the event, asking the event host to approach the City with ample time, before the event, in the future and increasing the amount to \$3000.00.

Commissioner's Armstrong and Pritchard volunteered to be judges at the event.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Armstrong, to approve Palm Springs Chalk Festival Sponsorship of City fees up to \$3000.00, unanimously carried.

2. Discuss/Approve PS Culturally Strong mural project, approximate cost \$52,000. See attached.

Commissioner Armstrong discussed the mural project; addressed a mural that reminded him of DNA mapping and spoke about the possibility of creating a mural that shows different people and cultures coming together to create Palm Springs.

Commissioner Pritchard spoke about the need to approve the budget to move the project forward.

Community & Economic Development Director Jay Virata noted there is a fee for securing a mural permit.

Commissioner Prichard suggested adding \$3,000 for the permit for a total budget of \$55,000.

Community & Economic Development Director Virata reported that murals require approval from City Council.

Discussion followed regarding having the Commission approve the concept, having City Council approve the art, the need to approve the budget, first, and the possibility of grouping projects together and having City Council review each individual mural piece.

MOTION: by Commissioner Lesniak, second by Commissioner Newkirk, to approve the PS Culturally Strong mural project, approximate cost \$55,000, unanimously carried.

3. Discuss/Approve Relocation and Restoration of three John Clement sculptures. See attached.

Chair Merrigan provided an update regarding the project; addressed an email with suggestions on locations and suggested approving the idea of moving the statues together and restoring them to forward it on to City Council as well as a budget.

Commissioner Lesniak listed locations that have been suggested to him.

Chair Merrigan expressed concerns about locating pieces any place that has grass; discussed placing them in an area where they will not be destroyed or damaged; mentioned the possibility of placing them in the Airport and felt Frances Stevens Park would be a good location for placement.

Discussion followed regarding focusing on the idea of movement and repair and focusing on placement at a later date, locating them in a family-friendly park, providing specific options to City Council relative to relocation of the pieces, the possibility of placing them at DeMuth Park and tabling this item to the next Commission meeting to allow for additional input regarding placement of the statues.

Chair Merrigan suggested approving a budget now and tabling the issue of placement to an upcoming Commission meeting.

Commissioner Lesniak asked residents to email him with suggestions as to the preferred location of the three John Clement sculptures and include photos of specific locations.

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Commissioner Lesniak, to approve a budget of \$60,000 for repair, restoration and relocation of three John Clement sculptures and table further discussions on placement to the next Commission meeting, carried 5-1, with Commissioner Newkirk, opposed.

4. Discuss Commissioner ideas for new projects, discussion will continue monthly.

Chair Merrigan reported that all of the splashpads in the parks have been removed and will be replaced; spoke about the possibility of doing artistic splashpads and asked whether the Commission is interested in pursuing the project.

Commissioner Lesniak spoke about meeting with the Librarian regarding suggested pieces of art; reported interest in something that encourages reading and children to visit the Library; noted there was major enthusiasm around Dr. Suess; presented details of a limited-edition piece and addressed two potential locations. He provided an update of recent construction in the Library and discussed the proposed budget for the Dr. Suess piece and base.

Discussion followed regarding the process for choosing and approving artists, art pieces and locations, considering costs of preparing a site, installation and maintenance, creating a campus-like atmosphere around the Library, changes at the Library for the next several years and considering the purchase of a new piece as part of the bigger plan for the Library.

Commissioner Armstrong referenced meetings regarding Measure J and the input received from the public; reported residents have requested using Measure J money to add landscaping and cleaning up the wash along Riverside Drive north between Sunrise and Riverside Canyon and proposed turning that area into an Art Walk.

Chair Merrigan felt that is a great area to activate with art.

Commissioner Newkirk commented on the CV Link going through the area and the possibility of the participating in the project through funding/sponsorships.

Discussion followed regarding the need for input from residents and homeowner associations.

Commissioner Lesniak stated he would like for an artist to create a bust of Lawrence Crossley to honor his accomplishments in the City.

Chair Merrigan reported there was a group of residents who were interested in the development of a park in Mr. Crossley's name and commented positively on Commissioner Lesniak's proposal.

Commissioner Armstrong noted that Lawrence Crossley will be depicted in the downtown mural.

5. Commissioner Updates: Temporary Art Subcommittee, Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes, Main Street, Parks and Rec. and the OnePS Picnic

Commissioner Lesniak provided updates on the Chalk Festival; reported Kimber Foster is developing specific news releases, one of which will be on Public Arts and noted that Kaye Anderson from the Agua Caliente Culture Center is hoping their museum opens before the end of the year. In addition, he presented a status update on the upcoming OnePS Picnic.

Regarding "Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes", Commissioner Faveau reported she will be issuing letters to artists to gauge interest in the project.

6. Receive staff update on city manager/council decisions for:
 - A. Art maintenance contract, commission passed 1/19/22
 - B. Art appraisals, commission passed 2/23/22
 - C. Art is Everywhere Neighborhood grants, commission passed 2/23/22
 - D. Taming of Horses flag replacement cost, commission passed 2/23/22
 - E. Commission Ordinance changes, commission passed 2/23/22
 - F. Submitted Commission Priorities/Areas of Focus Matrix, commission passed 2/23/22

Community & Economic Development Director Virata provided a status update on each of the items listed above.

7. Review progress on Commission Priorities/Areas of Focus Matrix

Chair Merrigan provided a brief review of progress on Commission priorities and the areas of focus matrix and commented on placement of the "Imagine Art Here" signs.

8. Update on Richard Wyatt Mural Community Outreach Meeting and Discussion.

Chair Merrigan provided an update on the Richard Wyatt Mural community outreach meeting and reported Commissioner Pritchard will be the point person at the meeting and confirmed that Commissioner Faveau will be attending, as well, unless there is a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Faveau will discuss the matter further, off line.

9. Review and approve Public Arts Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Chair Merrigan discussed the Public Arts Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and asked whether line items should be added for educational outreach and printing.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of making adjustments the budget later, approving the budget at the next Commission meeting and the definition of "Other Equipment".

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Chair Merrigan, to continue Item No. H9 to the next Commission meeting; unanimously carried.

I. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF: None

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Newkirk requested identification of space to store materials from the Public Arts Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: by Commissioner Pritchard, second by Chair Merrigan, to adjourn the meeting, unanimously carried.

The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 6:12 p.m. to a Regular Meeting on April 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via teleconference.