

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
May 18, 2022
Palm Springs City Hall
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Large Conference Room

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was conducted by teleconference.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Merrigan on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

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

City Staff: Jay Virata

C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

Vice Chair Pritchard would like to combine Items #G3 and #G4: it is one draft agreement. Chair Merrigan would like to move Item #G3 to #G1.

MOTION BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Adam Lerner, Director, Palm Springs Art Museum, introduced himself to the commission and he looks forward to collaborating with the city.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: From the meetings of November 17, 2021 and December 15, 2021.

The December meeting minutes needs further revisions: Madalina Adolena's name is misspelled. Commissioner Faveau's name was misspelled.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED FOR DECEMBER 15, 2021 AND FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2021, MADE BY VICE CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK. CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE.

F. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Merrigan thanked the commissioners for their patience while she attended to family issues. This commission has done everything the city asked this year, and they have completed their workplan: they reviewed maintenance issues with the collection and put that out to bid, Commissioners Newkirk and Armstrong are contacts on the RFP; made changes to their ordinance; they are reviewing the collection to provide recommendations for deaccessioning, removal and replacements; they have recreated the neighborhood grant program; created a program for a social issues installation, which was not approved by council; and they have asked council to sponsor commissions, so they could be aligned on priorities, as council has remarked on the lack of communication between council and commissions. The city manager mentioned that ordinance changes will be reviewed after council completes its work on changes to boards and commissions. Mixed messages and communication issues have impeded their progress. An unresolved issue is how to prevent their items being on the consent agenda. The commissioners are asked to decide if they would like to meet in July and August. The election of Chair and Vice Chair is in July and interested candidates should notify Jay Virata and Chair Merrigan.

G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

3. Agreement for Placement and Loan of Artwork from the Palm Springs Art Museum at the Palm Springs International Airport and the Palm Springs Convention Center. The number of art works is unchanged. Discussion with museum director Adam Lerner about rotating some of the pieces, rethinking placement; the museum would like their collection to be more engaged with the community, not in storage. Museum staff would need to incorporate this into their schedules and have conversations to define goals. Vice Chair Pritchard and one other commissioner can meet with him. With museum loans, the borrower pays for the shipping and museum staff usually handles the installation. The shipping costs are budgeted by the commission. The city collaborated with the museum on programming pre-Covid. We currently don't have an active agreement for art works in place. This agreement will subsequently have to go to the Airport Commission, then City Council for approval.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR PRITCHARD TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR THE LOAN OF ARTWORK FROM THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM TO THE PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE.

1. Discussion on submitting proposals to City Council. How to address the disconnect, miscommunication between council and commissions. Suggestion that ideas for initiatives be mentioned to a councilperson to determine where it stands with council priorities. Current directive from council is that communication should go through staff.

2. Proposed donation from Steve Maloney's family of a sculpture by Steve Maloney to the City of Palm Springs. Vice Chair Pritchard has talked to Hugh Wakem, representing the Maloney family, about a donation, but they have not identified a specific artwork; possibly put this on the agenda for June.
5. Approve contract extension with Tysen Knight Productions to extend the Bench Repair Contract through December 31, 2022, for an additional amount not to exceed \$5,000, bringing the total contract amount to \$15,000.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH TYSEN KNIGHT PRODUCTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, WITH A STATUS REPORT IN NOVEMBER, FOR AN ADDITIONAL BUDGET OF \$5,000, TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$15,000. CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE.

6. Approve purchase of Fossils of the Future, by artist E. Tyler Burton, located on City owned property at the corner of Racquet Club Drive and Leonard Street, in the amount of \$10,000. Discussion regarding the addition of a bench in the area, to be prepped, painted, and sealed in a complimentary color, by Tysen Knight for \$500.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FOSSILS OF THE FUTURE, BY E. TYLER BURTON, FOR \$10,000 AND THE INSTALLATION OF A BENCH BY TYSEN KNIGHT FOR \$500, 4-YES, 2-NO, CARRIED 4-2 FOR APPROVAL.

7. Commissioner Updates:
 - a. Temporary Art Subcommittee – Vice Chair Pritchard is waiting for the list, so the subcommittee has not met.
 - b. Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes – Commissioner Faveau has no updates.
 - c. Parks & Rec – Commissioner Armstrong is speaking to the Parks & Rec commission Monday about the Eco Art walk idea.
 - d. Art is Everywhere Neighborhood Grant Program – Commissioner Newkirk mentioned that Tahquitz Creek is interested having an artist create a gateway piece, partially on city land, and asks if the city would cover landscaping and lighting costs. The commission, 6-0, supports moving forward with this proposal and requests additional information.
 - e. Main Street – Commissioner Lesniak – Sidewalk vendors are permitted downtown, but amplification is not permitted. The Visitor Center is undergoing a refresh of their office, and they're developing a cannabis travel strategy. Hotel and vacation rental taxes for 2019 were \$25 million, for 2022 (thus far) it's \$37 million. Juneteenth celebration will be on June 19th.
 - f. Downtown Benches – Commissioner Lesniak reports positive feedback from vendors and requests that they be preserved or have the artists refresh them.

8. Discuss commissioner ideas for new projects:
 - a. Commissioner Lesniak – Lawrence Crossley Bronze Bust, possible installation sites. Need to approach city council members since they will be the source of funding.
 - b. Commissioner Armstrong – Asphalt Art Project, with Bloomberg Philanthropies, aligns with council priorities regarding street safety, and they will meet with the mayor next week.

H. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF: Vice Chair Pritchard has not received a letter from Michael Braun to extend use of the pit, the mural. Question regarding the extension of the Ryan Campbell mural; Jay Virata to obtain more information.

I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a regular meeting on June 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

MOTION MADE BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, CARRIED 6-0 TO ADJOURN at 8:00 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 15, 2022, AT 5:30 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Jay Virata*

Jay Virata, Director
Community & Economic Development Department