

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
June 15, 2022  
Palm Springs City Hall  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and in-person.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Merrigan on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

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

City Staff: Jay Virata, City Attorney Jill Tremblay

**C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 20, 2021, MADE BY VICE CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

**F. PRESENTATION:**

1. Brown Act, Pitch Meetings with City Council Members, and guidelines for commissioning artworks and art installations – City Attorney Jill Tremblay
  - i. Jay Virata to broach during city staff meeting having a study session with city council. Concerns raised regarding upcoming elections, and time constraints. Alternatively, Public Arts could be added to the city council agenda as a discussion item so they can get some feedback.

## **G. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Chair Merrigan shared her thank you letter to city staff and community contacts for her inspiring work of the last five years with the Public Arts Commission, and reviewed accomplishments from her tenure.

## **H. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:**

1. Discussion of request for funding in the amount of \$65,000 in Public Art Funds for preparation and installation costs of the AIDS Memorial Sculpture in the Downtown Park. Phillip K. Smith, III, and Dan Spencer presented an update on the memorial: they are in the process of raising \$600,000 for the project, which will be a gift to the city; the \$65,000 is for installation in the downtown park. Installation is anticipated for late summer or early fall next year.

They asked for the arts commission's support and assistance with site preparation and installation, and they will subsequently proceed to the city council for approval. Regarding maintenance of the artwork: lighting for the sculpture would require the installation of 4 additional light fixtures with the same specs as those currently used in the park; landscaping is not part of the sculpture; it fits with existing landscaping in the park. Installation costs explained, requirements for handling of the limestone material. An anti-graffiti coat will be applied prior to installation. The commission's funds roll over annually, so money can be conditionally approved for next year.

MOTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$65,000 IN PUBLIC ARTS FUNDS FOR THE PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE AIDS MEMORIAL SCULPTURE IN THE DOWNTOWN PARK MADE BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT ALL LIGHTING WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY, NOT THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION. CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE THE BUDGET OF \$65,000 FOR THE PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE AIDS MEMORIAL IN THE DOWNTOWN PARK.

2. Consider funding in the amount of \$100,000 in Public Arts Funds to refabricate the Richard Wyatt Mural using tile as a medium, at the James O. Jesse Unity Center, and request that the City of Palm Springs fund the balance for the project, approximately \$200,000. This item to be tabled, so a more current estimate of costs can be obtained from the city.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD TO TABLE THIS ITEM, SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, 5 TO APPROVE, 1 DECLINED, CARRIED 5-1 TO APPROVE.

3. Joint Meeting and Presentations by all the Commissions and City Council, June 21, 2022. The commission is asked to give a 10-minute overview of past accomplishments and goals for the next year. Commissioners to review draft

created and email feedback to Jay Virata; he will work with the Chair and Vice Chair to finalize the presentation.

4. Discussion regarding the purchase of Commissioner Identification Badges, Identification Cards, Vinyl Banner, Event Tent, and White Canopy – Commissioner Lesniak suggested the purchase of a tent and badges for newer members (existing members already have them), a canopy and banner. Funds are available from the picnic.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF CANOPIES, BADGES, TAGS, CARDS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS, A BUDGET OF \$3,500, FOR USE BY THE COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE (COMMISSIONER FAVEAU HAS LEFT THE MEETING)

5. Commissioner Updates –
  - a. Temporary Art Subcommittee
  - b. Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes
  - c. Parks & Rec
  - d. Art is Everywhere Neighborhood Grant Program
  - e. Main Street Merchants
  - f. Downtown Benches
  - g. Asphalt Art
  - h. Lawrence Crossley Public Art
  - i. Steve Maloney Family donation

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD TO TABLE ITEM 5, SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, APPROVED.

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

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD TO TABLE ITEM 6, SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, APPROVED.

**I. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:** None. No updates regarding the changes to ordinances approved by the commission; they have been given to the city attorney for review, redraft, and presentation to city council.

**J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a regular meeting on July 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of Palm Springs City Hall located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

MOTION MADE BY COMISSIONER PRITCHARD AND SECONDED BY CHAIR MERRIGAN, CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN at 7:51 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 20, 2022, AT 5:30 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Jay Virata*

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Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development Department