

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
July 20, 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 Commissioner Pritchard on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Russell Pritchard, Gary Armstrong, Matthew Lesniak, Barrett Newkirk, Shawnda Faveau (joined at 5:40 PM)

Excused: Commissioner Tracy Merrigan

City Staff: Jay Virata, Cindy Carins

C. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR -

1. Nominations and remarks for Chair and Vice Chair: Commissioner Armstrong nominated Russell Pritchard for Chair; Commissioner Pritchard nominated Gary Armstrong for Vice Chair.
2. Election of Chair Pritchard carried 4-0, and Vice Chair Armstrong, carried 4-0.

D. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Lesniak noted that an item postponed from the last meeting – the proposed funding of \$100,000 for the mural at James O. Jessie Center - is not on the agenda. Jay Virata stated it was excluded because they are waiting for an updated cost proposal from the artist and, when received, queries will be made to the city regarding payment for the balance, with a staff report for city council; staff worked with Commissioner Faveau to reach out to the artist. The current proposal is over a year old and an updated one is requested. This will be tabled until the September meeting while waiting for additional information.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE
AGENDA

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

G. PRESENTATION: None.

H. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Pritchard would like the commission members to work collaboratively and to communicate on a regular basis, to facilitate the completion of projects. A study session is suggested for the first week of September to define goals for the upcoming year, earmark specific projects, and to lay out a plan. The City Manager has requested that commissions create an annual work program, listing projects for discussion and feedback by city council in their October/November sessions. Proposed study meeting date is September 7, 2022.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

1. Accept as a gift, the Steve Maloney piece “Banned Booty Runway.” Hugh Wakehan, friend of the artist Steve Maloney, who passed in February 2021, discussed with his widow, Yvonne Maloney, the donation of an artwork to the commission. Maloney’s background, civic involvement, and inspiration for the piece discussed. The artwork was valued at \$45,000 and his estate would cover any shipping and installation costs. Chair Pritchard noted that they would have to meet with the Airport Commission to identify locations for installation, to accept it as a permanent piece, and it would go to city council for approval.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STEVE MALONEY PIECE “BANNED BOOTY RUNWAY” MADE BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTENCE OF THE GIFT, “BANNED BOOTY RUNWAY.”

2. Discuss and approve increase for the artist fees and expenses for Stop in the Name of Love Utility Box Artwork Program, from \$500 to \$750 per project. Current budget has approximately \$18,700 remaining to spend. City council approved \$500 per box and any change would have to go back to city council for approval. Commissioners declined acting on this item. Staff member Cindy Cairns to get clarification from Commissioner Faveau regarding half boxes, boxes approved.
3. Commissioner Updates –
 - a. Temporary Art Subcommittee
 - b. Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes
 - c. Parks & Rec – Vice Chair Armstrong spoke at the last Parks & Rec commission meeting and provided updates on the AIDS memorial in the

downtown park, a proposed project along Riverside Drive, the Eco Art Walk, and inclusion of the Arts Commission in the Sunrise Park redesign since it has 13 pieces of public art. The Parks & Rec commission appreciated the increased engagement and Vice Chair Armstrong shared the art commission's intent to be cross commissioned with them moving forward.

- d. Art is Everywhere Neighborhood Grant Program – Commissioner Newkirk attended the One-PS meeting and shared information about this program. One group is interested in a neighborhood entryway sign; the Tahquitz Creek Neighborhood Golf group entryway sign is delayed due to the artist's delay in providing concepts.
 - e. Main Street Merchants – Commissioner Lesniak reported they are now meeting once a month, no longer two times per month.
 - f. Downtown Benches – Commissioner Lesniak said there was positive feedback on the benches, but the merchants requested contact information for someone who can assist when there are maintenance issues. Chair Pritchard is the contact for issues with the benches.
 - g. Asphalt Art – Vice Chair Armstrong met with city staff members Jay and Don (Engineering). Don provided feedback and a staff report from a previous iteration of this project and mentioned that the engineering staff is understaffed and backed up on projects. Vice Chair Armstrong will get city engineering involved early, at concept and design, to ensure that continuing would be feasible. The earliest that engineering could get involved would be May/June 2023; this is doable with the commission's planning and approval timeline. Next steps are specifics and community outreach.
 - h. Lawrence Crossley Public Art – Commissioner Lesniak mentioned that an artist declined the project to avoid controversy as a non-black artist selected to commemorate a black individual. He would like to present this project to city council and subsequently there would be an open call for artists. This project can be included in the list of programs to discuss in the September meeting and presented to city council.
 - i. Commissioner Identification Badges and Event Materials – There are plans is to reduce commissions to 5 people over the next few years. Approved funds for badges and canopies are available, approximately \$1,700; only the city logo can be used. Business cards are not provided by the city for any commission members. Commissioner Lesniak will bring specifics to the September meeting for approval.
4. Discuss commissioner ideas for new projects, discussion will continue monthly – Need to discuss plans for artwork on Tahquitz Canyon, once the horses have been removed.

J. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:

Jay Virata provided an update on the arts maintenance contract: they are close to completing the recommendation.

K. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Discussion regarding renewal of terms and selection of new commission members.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a special meeting on September 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference at Palm Springs City Hall located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

MOTION MADE BY CHAIR PRITCHARD AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN at 6:50 PM TO A SPECIAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2022, AT 5:30 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Jay Virata*

Jay Virata, Director
Community & Economic Development Department