

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
September 7, 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 special meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Pritchard on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Russell Pritchard, Vice Chair Gary Armstrong, Barrett Newkirk, Matthew Lesniak

Excused: Shawnda Faveau

Not present: Tracy Merrigan

City Staff: Jay Virata

Guest: Caroline Geys, muralist based in Los Angeles and has completed murals in Palm Springs

**C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA, KNOWING THAT UPDATES WILL NOT BE RECEIVED BY THE TWO MISSING COMMISSIONERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, CARRIED 4-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Caroline Geys, muralist, asked if an RFP was opened for artists for the Acrisure Area mural. Chair Pritchard noted that the project originated and is managed by Acrisure Area, project manager is Pete Salcido; Salcido provided a list of artists for the city to choose from. Since it's outside of Palm Springs city limits, they will use special funds for the project. Caroline will send an email to the project manager with her portfolio.

**E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Chair Pritchard thanked the commissioners for meeting with him to discuss the commission's vision for the new year and for proactively using a two-step plan for

installations and projects - those being completed in June 23; and those starting now and running through 24-25 – and for this special meeting.

**F. REMARKS FROM THE VICE CHAIR:**

Vice Chair Armstrong thanked everyone for the past year, which was challenging.

**G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:**

1. Select an artist to paint the Palm Springs mural inside Acrisure Arena. Artist Kat Travino, artist of a bench at the Convention Center, was selected. Proposals for the artwork will be presented at the next meeting.

MOTION TO SELECT KAT TRAVINO AS THE ARTIST TO PAINT THE PALM SPRINGS MURAL INSIDE ACRISURE ARENA, MADE BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO SELECT KAT TRAVINO AS THE ARTIST FOR THE MURAL.

2. Accept a gift from artists Linda Maxon and Debi Grupe, “Crushing Inertia,” valued at \$18,000 and currently installed at the Palm Springs Airport Regional Concourse. This was a temporary art project installed circa 2019. Vice Chair Armstrong will present the proposal for the gift to the Airport Commission for approval.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF “CRUSHING INERTIA” FROM ARTISTS LINDA MAXON AND DEBIT GRUPE, MADE BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED 4-0 TO ACCEPT THE GIFTED ARTWORK, CRUSHING INERTIA.

3. Discuss and approve a budget of \$20,000 for the Asphalt Art Project, test site to be determined, with proposed sites at Arenas District or James O. Jessie Center.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET OF \$20,000 FOR THE ASPHALT ART PROJECT, MADE BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECONDED BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, CARRIED TO 4-0 APPROVAL.

4. Discuss and approve a budget of \$14,000 (\$10,000 for purchase, \$2,000 for relocation, and \$2,000 for a building permit and possible engineer report) for Popsicles art pieces, site to be determined; proposed location is Victoria Park.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET OF \$14,000 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELOCATION OF THE ARTWORK POPSICLES, MADE BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, CARRIED TO 4-0 APPROVAL.

5. Discuss and approved a budget of \$6,400 for the purchase and relocation of WOW (\$5,000 purchase, \$900 repair, \$500 relocation fee), site to be determined.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET OF \$6,400 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELOCATION OF THE “WOW” ARTWORK, MADE BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED TO 4-0 APPROVAL.

6. Discuss and approve a budget of \$75,000 to relocate the three Clement pieces (\$25,000 per piece) to Demuth Park.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET OF \$75,000 TO RELOCATE THREE CLEMENT PIECES TO DEMUTH PARK, MADE BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTORNG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED TO 4-0 APPROVAL.

- H. Commissioners report their “one year” projects and “extended time frame projects.” Each commissioner to report and assign a commissioner to do a project timeline spreadsheet.

Chair Pritchard discussed the creation of the project timeline spreadsheet with Commissioner Lesniak assisting.

Chair Prichard’s projects for his final year –

- A proposed temple-like shrine by Ryan Campbell for installation at the west end of Museum Way, in front of the art museum
- A mural on the museum parking garage, to be discussed with Commissioner Armstrong

Vice Chair Armstrong’s projects –

- The Eco Artwalk along North Riverside, near the CV link
- The replacement of the horses along Tahquitz Canyon with artwork showing the six pillars of Palm Springs, the ideas that represent Palm Springs; the work can be done by different artists. Commissioner Lesniak may work with him on this project.
- Frances Stevens Park as a social issues park

Commissioner Barrett’s projects –

- Continuing the neighbor grants program: identification of five, \$5,000 grants and the launch of a few projects
- Doing more to promote the permanent collection, such as brochures, art walks.

Commissioner Lesniak’s projects –

- The replacement of the horses along Tahquitz Canyon, but with temporary (not permanent), alternating artwork
- Talks with potential donors regarding the funding of a substantial piece of public art that they would donate to the city.

- Possibly utilizing the electric box on Cherokee and Palm Canyon Drive to mark the Backstreet artist group in that area.

**I. Commissioner Outreach Assignments:**

- a. Pritchard: Arts Commission email and City Council – after the city council elections, the commission’s vision, plan, and the need for an email address will be presented.
- b. Armstrong: Recreation and Parks – Vice Chair Armstrong has been working with Parks & Recreation
- c. Armstrong and Newkirk: Website – Vice Chair Armstrong and Commissioner Newkirk are working with Jay Virata about a website and the possible temporary addition of a social media person, for a six-month contract. Request that the city website be updated for the Public Arts Commission. The city council questioned the need for a separate webpage, voiced concerns. A request for assistance will be presented post-election.

Jay Virata discussed the need for possible liaisons with the Airport Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Art Museum, and the historic standing of a park would need to be addressed. An outreach presentation should be ready to present to anybody, e.g., the tribe, real estate associations looking for speakers, school districts, colleges, and churches. Chair Pritchard and Commissioner Lesniak to work on developing a liaison with the Art Museum.

- d. Faveau: James O. Jessie – Not present.
- e. Lesniak: Main Street Merchants
- f. Newkirk: One PS
- g. Merrigan: TBD – Not present.

**J. Discuss Future Projects:**

**K. Discuss Plan for moving the three Clement pieces:**

- L. Determining a plan to have Francis Stevens Park become “Social Issues Park” to include one main installation and / or an art mural wall along east side / Indian Canyon Drive – tabled for discussion at the September 21, 2022 meeting.

**M. REPORT FROM STAFF:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a regular meeting on September 21, 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 VIE CHAIR ARMSTRONG AND SECONDED BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, CARRIED 4-0 TO ADJOURN at 7:11 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2022, AT 5:30 PM IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Jay Virata*

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Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development Department