

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
September 21, 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 Pritchard on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Shawnda Favreau, Matthew Lesniak, Barrett Newkirk, Vice-Chair Armstrong, Chair Pritchard.

Not present: Commissioner Tracy Merrigan

City Staff: Jay Virata

C. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Chair Pritchard proposed changes to Item G: deleting Item #G3, since the car installation in that location has been extended to June 2023. Item #G4 will be a general discussion as artist Ryan Campbell is awaiting specifics for his budget. Item #G7 will be information from Commissioner Lesniak and Vice-Chair Armstrong regarding specific locations in Demuth Park for the Clement pieces. Item #G6 would be a vote to extend the Popsicles installation at its current location.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Trae Daniel, resident in the Lawrence Crossley neighborhood, would like to raise awareness and get support for public arts work in his neighborhood. The Lumen Project is currently being constructed in their neighborhood and the developer is required to make donations to the Public Arts Commission. Request that those donations be used to create public art works in the Lawrence Crossley neighborhood. Mr. Daniel has been in contact with Commissioner Lesniak about this issue.

E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Pritchard reported that Commissioner Merrigan has resigned from her post, effective October 1, 2022.

F. REMARKS FROM THE VICE CHAIR:

Vice Chair Armstrong and Chair Pritchard have been trying to align various initiatives with Brown Act guidelines, city council and other city commissions, which has slowed progress but will result in fewer mistakes and less friction. As facilities (Convention Center) and parks (Sunset Park) are redeveloped, he's requested that those agencies collaborate with this commission in developing plans for public art and to determine the disposition of their existing artworks. His focus will be more on institutional outreach and connectivity with other commissions to help prevent missteps with public art projects.

G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

1. Discussion to consider funding \$100,000 from 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 provide the balance of approximately \$186,000 for this project. The neighborhood has voted on and approved the project. Jay Virata provided an update on the balance of the Public Arts fund, which is now \$1.2 million; he recommends that Public Arts Funds be utilized for the entire project to prevent delays. Jay Virata mentioned that an engineering study was completed for this project earlier: the wall was determined to be structurally sound and able to carry the weight of the tiles. Commissioner Faveau and Commissioner Newkirk will manage this project, artist timeline, and installation.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FAVEAU, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BUDGET OF \$286,000 FROM THE AVAILABLE PUBLIC ARTS FUND TO REFABRICATE THE RICHARD WYATT MURAL. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

2. Select a design proposal from artist Kat Trevino for the Acrisure Arena Mural Project. Design A has a model with white sunglasses, Design B has model with blue hair. Commissioners would like the design revised. Jay Virata noted that city council made specific requests about this mural during their meeting when delegating this selection to the commission: local artists preferred, but quality takes precedence over residency; the mural is an opportunity for branding the city as more than a generic desert environment; and to include elements distinct to Palm Springs, e.g., the Tramway, mid-century architecture, and diversity. Kat Trevino is a resident in the Los Angeles area.

Suggestion that feedback be provided to the artist so the images can be revised. The arena wants the mural concepts by October 1, 2022, so a special meeting will

be scheduled for September 28, 2022 for this item. Chair Pritchard asks that each Commissioner provide specific directions on what they would like to see in the artwork and send it to Jay Virata by September 23, 2022, and they will give it to the artist for revisions.

3. Item deleted.
4. Discussion by the commission to decide if they want to pursue the “Temple” art installation by artist Ryan Campbell. Installation would be at the west end of Museum Way. Commissioners expressed an interest in pursuing the piece. The discussion will be tabled until the October 2022 meeting.
5. Vote on the location for the Asphalt Art test pilot project. Proposed location James O. Jessie Center, street entrance at 480 West Tramview Way has neighborhood support: alternative location at in Arenas, intersection of Arenas and Calle Encilia.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG TO LOCATE THE ASPHALT ART TEST PILOT PROEJCT ON TRAMVIEW WAY, ADJACENT TO THE JAMES O. JESSIE CENTER, AT A LOCATION TO BE INDENTIFIED. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE. CHAIR PRITCHARD WILL ASSIST COMMISSIONER FAVEAU WITH THIS PROJECT.

6. Vote to extend the “Popsicles” art installation at its current location until October 31, 2023. The purchase of the artwork was previously approved.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PURCHASE OF “POPSICLES” AND LEAVE IT AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION ON SUNNY DUNES. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

7. Information on the locations in Demuth Park for the Clement art pieces (Butch, Ithiel, and Squeeze). Proposed locations to be presented to the Parks & Recreation commission for approval.

H. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Art walk / guide virtual mapping project, by Commissioner Newkirk – Information circulated to the commission about possible groupings, themes. The app from the Visit Greater Palm Springs center includes public art works, but it’s incomplete, covers art in neighboring cities, and includes other visitor information. Need to determine if they want to work with them or come up with a separate program. Storycom is an online service, used by museums and historical sites to create apps for their collections. Video Cache is another service recommended. To be discussed further at the October meeting.

2. Tahquitz art pads, by Vice Chair Armstrong and Commissioner Lesniak – “The Pillars of Palm Springs,” art installation would have six values / ideas that represent Palm Springs, with artwork created that exemplifies those values. Different artists for each pillar, which would be a columnar sculpture. This is at the conceptual stage, and the Human Rights Commission would be subsequently engaged. The artwork would be environmentally friendly to the community.
3. Continuation and expansion of Utility Box project, by Commissioners Faveau and Lesniak. Request from an area around Cherokee; the list of approved locations is being reviewed and additional sites can be presented to city council for approval. There is money in the budget to paint additional boxes.
4. Francis Stevens Park Social Issues Project, by Vice Chair Armstrong – He has reached out to the new Parks & Recreation Commissioner so they could align priorities and budgets. The “Squiggles” artwork is being removed from the park and a new piece of artwork could replace it. Regarding the Eco Art Walk, in the last Measure J meeting, Jane from the Preservation Commission mentioned that monies were being set aside for landscaping along North Riverside; Vice Chair Armstrong would like to coordinate this work with the CV link, landscaping and the Eco Walk; and requests a joint commission meeting to discuss the overall vision of this project.

I. GENERAL COMMISSIONER REPORS / COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORTS:

Commissioner Lesniak mentioned that the police noted problems with benches in the Downtown area, but not the painted benches. The upcoming Pride celebration was noted. The sister cities: San Miguel de Allende is sending representatives to Palm Springs in mid-October to learn more about the city. There will be an active shooter training on October 1st at the Convention Center.

J. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:

Jay Virata stated that Communications Director, Amy Blaisdell, asked him to remind the Commissioners that the Chair of the Commission should be their designated media contact.

Commissioner Lesniak would like the Intersect location added to the Agenda for the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission will adjourn to a special meeting on September 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of Palm Springs City Hall located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG,
CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 PM TO A SPECIAL MEETING ON

SEPTEMBER 28, 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*

Jay Virata, Director
Community & Economic Development Department