

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
October 19, 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, October 19, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Shawnda Faveau, Matthew Lesniak, Barrett Newkirk, Vice-chair Armstrong (departed after roll call, rejoined at 26 minutes), Chair Pritchard.

City Staff: Jay Virata

C. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Chair Pritchard would like to table Item #G3 until the November 2022 meeting. The artist is talking to different fabricators and the budget is being revised.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Human Rights Commissioner Edwin Ramoran, community organizer and resident of District 1, and a spokesperson for two community-based projects for veterans tracked and the Demuth Park neighborhood, asks that the following be added to the agenda for the November meeting: a progress report on the proposed Filipino X Community Mural; updates regarding a new art festival, World Art at Night at the Park; and, a request for an "Art is Everywhere" grant for benches and picnic tables at Demuth Park.

Paisley Ramstead, Biologist and Executive Assistant for Oswit Land Trust; the Trust recently acquired Prescott Preserve. The Trust is looking forward to partnering with the commission to install public art in the preserve. The Trust envisions large-scale art by local artists in the preserve, murals, and other ideas, both permanent and temporary installations.

E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

Chair Pritchard mentioned an article in the October 19, 2022, Desert Sun about the art collection at the airport, upcoming projects, and Art in Palm Springs. The commission is awaiting the Airport Commission's acceptance of two art installations gifted to the airport. Queuing up for city council approval: the WOW installation, the Popsicles installation, and asphalt art. Contact with Christopher Meyer's gallerist to discuss the disposition of the Horses installation, possible gift to Palm Springs. Meeting set with Palm Springs Museum Director Adam Lerner and Vice Chair Armstrong to tour the artwork at the airport, possible changes.

Clarification of guidelines for the use of committee funds from developer fees: developers cannot dictate where the funds are spent; developers can commission or obtain specific artwork within their development that has public access for 18 hours a day (outside) or 12 hours per day (inside), with commission approval; funds cannot be used for landscaping unless its integral to an art installation.

F. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consider Resolution No. 22-001 MUR, "A RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AFTER-THE-FACT ART MURAL APPLICATION FOR "SOFIA'S TRANSFORMATION" FROM VIA ONERA SOLEDAD LLC BY ARTIST PRESSA HALL LOCATED ON THE EAST (PARKING LOT FACING) ELEVATION OF THE PERIMTER WALL AT 1491 SOUTH VIA SOLEDAD (CASE 22-001 MUR)"

The applicant has now met all their application requirements including permits and fees. The mural has already been installed. The applicant is committed to doing annual maintenance and, if approved, a maintenance Covenant will be recorded on the property. The mural would be approved by the commission for artistic merit and, subsequently, the legality of it by city council. Opposition by nearby property owner was noted. Commissioner Lesniak, Jay Virata and Commissioner Faveau are concerned about setting a precedent as residents in the area were not consulted before the mural was installed. Jay Virata noted that notices were subsequently sent to surrounding residents for comments. Commissioner Newkirk recommends that the city do more to publicize the mural approval process, possibly a mural information page on the city website.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK TO PASS RESOLUTION NO. 22-001 MUR APPROVING THE AFTER-THE-FACT MURAL APPLICATION FOR "SOFIA'S TRANSFORMATION." 4 TO APPROVE, 1 TO ABSTAIN, CARRIED 4 -1 TO APPROVE.

G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

1. Discussion regarding the relocation of “Intersecting Cubes,” by artist Brian Biedul, located at North Palm Canyon near Tamarisk, and the review of potential relocation sites (Pritchard). Recommendation that the Commissioners examine potential relocation sites and add this to the November 2022 agenda for a second motion.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK TO APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF “INTERSECTING CUBES” AND TO ADD THE REVIEW OF RELOCATION SITES TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE

2. Crossley Art Installation (Lesniak). Overview of the background and significance of Martha and Lawrence Crossley and recommendation for an art installation that memorializes both husband and wife. Chair Pritchard would like the art installation to represent them in a very modern way. Engagement of the residents in the neighborhood is recommended. Proposed art installation to be added to the agenda for the November meeting.
3. Discussion to approve relocation of “WOW” by artist MIDABI (Michael Birnberg) from South Indian Canyon at Arenas to the art pad on city property at 1101 North Palm Canyon in front of Ernest Coffee. (Pritchard)

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, TO APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF “WOW” BY ARTIST MIDABI TO THE ART PAD AT 1101 NORTH PALM CANYON. APPROVE - 3, ABSTAIN – 2. CARRIED 3-2 TO APPROVE.

H. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Utility Box Project: update and brief with mapping (Faveau and Lesniak)

Commissioner Faveau is scheduling artists, but some declined because the fee made it economically unfeasible for the time needed to complete the artwork. Current fee is \$500, it was \$750 in the past. A new call for artists on the website is planned.

2. Frances Stevens Park: Social Issues Wall (Armstrong)

Vice Chair Armstrong presented this project to the Human Rights Commission meeting. Three social issues addressed – evergreen (climate change, women’s rights/marriage equality), a seasonal item, e.g., autism awareness month, and current events, e.g., the George Floyd mural – would enable immediate messaging. Current focus is on the form of the installation in the park.

3. Art mapping (Newkirk)

Commissioner Newkirk has talked to Story (vendor) about the creation of an app and plans to schedule a meeting them, and Commissioners Newkirk and Lesniak, for a demonstration and to answer questions.

4. Tahquitz median art installations (Armstrong, Lesniak)

Vice Chair Armstrong recounts discussions about the concept and purpose of the installations with the Desert Sun, and the Human Rights Commission; the commission seemed agreeable to the six words considered for graphic and/or figural representation of the terms. A proposal should be ready for a vote at the November meeting.

5. General commissioner reports or comments

Vice Chair Armstrong attended the Airport Commission meeting and they voted to accept the artwork “Inertia,” but are unsure about the location. Public Arts Commissioner invited to walk the airport with airport operations staff and Airport Commissioners, and the Airport Commission will put the item on the agenda for their next meeting. The Airport Commissioners would like more public art and identified additional potential locations for installations, including a mural for the check-in area. Airport Commissioners asked that the Public Arts Commission consider a rotation of artworks, Praise for the artwork on the benches and trash cans currently at the airport.

Commissioner Faveau questioned the status of the George Floyd mural. A proposal to allocate funds to move the mural was previously declined by this commission, but storing the panels at the city yard was approved. City staff recommended that commissioners contact the owner of the building, who intends to remove the panels, so the panels could be taken to the city yard for storage. Chair Pritchard will contact the building owner for updates, and they can determine the condition of the work, possible relocation, for discussion as an agenda item in November. Vice Chair Armstrong suggests that an executive brief summarizing deliberations by this commission be prepared for artwork that is leaving the commission.

I. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:

1. Webpage

Jay Virata reports that the State of California requires web pages of government agencies be recorded daily, with every change to the website recorded, and that they are subject to public records act requests (discoverable). The PS Public Arts webpage was not in compliance, and it was controlled by a former commissioner; recommendation that the page be linked to a city-controlled URL. Current web page content would be reviewed, possibly reused. The transition will take some

time. The email will be changed to a city email address. The Public Arts Facebook and Instagram pages will be addressed as well. Commissioners Barrett and Armstrong will be engaged when Jay has these discussions with IT.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission will adjourn to a regular meeting on November 16, 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 COMMISSIONER FAVEAU, CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 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