

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
March 15, 2023  
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, March 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Russell Pritchard, Vice Chair Gary Armstrong, Commissioner Barrett Newkirk, and Commissioner Shawnda Faveau

Not present: Commissioner Matthew Lesniak, who has resigned his position.

City Staff: Jay Virata

**C. PRESENTATIONS:**

1. DesertX Billboard Project / Tyre Nichols Photography (Jenny Gil/Mara Gladstone):  
No presentation.

**D. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

Chair Pritchard moved Items #F and #G to after Item #H and Items #H2 and #H3 will be tabled.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED AGENDA

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Richard Noble made history in 2011-2012 when he walked the rainbow flag across America, which was recognized and commended by the Obama Administration. He has interviewed all the businesses on Areas about having rainbow sidewalks, but in looking at similar work across the country, saw a need to have an artist's room to capture it properly. Suggested Rainbow sidewalk on Arenas is estimated at \$15,000. Discussed Frances Stevens Park as a proposed "social issues" park. Discussed images and flags to be used during the March for Equality. He would like to further

discuss this event, placement, and involvement, with Frances Stevens Park as a suggested location. Possible art projects celebrating the role of the LGBTQ community and its allies in achieving equality discussed.

Joy Silver introduced herself as an observer at the meeting.

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

1. Discuss and approve a budget of \$25,000 to sponsor the DesertX / Tyre Nichols Billboard Photo project on the Gene Autry billboards, A portion of the funds would go to the Tyre Nichols family. (Chair Pritchard)

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE BUDGET TO SPONSOR THE DESERTX / TYRE NICHOLS BILLBOARD PHOTO PROJECT ON THE GENE AUTRY BILLBOARDS.

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

1. Budget Update / Report, by Chair Pritchard and Jay Virata

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

Vice Chair Armstrong expressed his displeasure with the last City Council meeting and the lack comprehensive and quality information provided by city staff prior to the Commission's vote on the Wintec project.

#### **I. PROJECT UPDATES:**

- a. Utility Box Artwork update, by Commissioner Faveau

Commissioner Faveau has approximately \$10,000 remaining and several boxes to be painted around the city.

- b. Juneteenth Project, by Commissioner Faveau

Information provided thus far is preliminary and more information should be available for the April meeting.

- c. Advocacy Tablets, by Commissioner Newkirk

Renderings of proposed tablets at Frances Stevens Park were shared. The goal is to create a space designated for social justice-related art. This project is in the early planning stages, with little detail. Three types of messaging: Evergreen, climate change; marriage equality, pro-choice;

and, calendar events, e.g., Black History Month, there would also be a component for immediate issues, e.g., antisemitism, trans violence.

d. OnePS Picnic, by Commissioners Newkirk

Commissioner Newkirk requested additional help for the World Art Day, Art at the Park evening event.

e. Commissioner Armstrong discussed the upcoming commissioned art piece related to PS Pride, which will be funded by public donations, not the City. The Art Commission has been asked to send out the RFP and to judge the finalists. Anticipated launch is PS Pride 2025.

**J. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a regular meeting on April 12, 2023, 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 COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO ADJOURN at 6:51 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 12, 2023, 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