

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
June 14, 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 special meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Commissioner Pritchard on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Russell Pritchard, Gary Armstrong, Barrett Newkirk, Chris Ramirez

Not present: Shawnda Faveau

City Staff: Jay Virata

**C. WELCOME NEW AND REAPPOINTED COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Prichard**

Welcome to new Commissioner Ramirez, who will be authorized to vote on matters after he is sworn in. Congratulations to Commissioner Faveau on her reappointment to the Commission.

**D. ELECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR:**

1. Nominations and (2.) Elections of a Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Pritchard nominates Commissioner Armstrong for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk. Carried 3-0 to approve Gary Armstrong as Chair.

Chair Armstrong nominates Commissioner Newkirk for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Pritchard. Carried 3-0 to approve Barrett Newkirk as Vice Chair

**E. PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**F. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

MOTION BY CHAIR ARMSTRONG TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, CARRIED 3-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA

**G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Lex Ortega, resident, and part of the leadership team of the LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert, speaking to Item #J1, the removal of art on utility boxes. The box at 1305 N. Palm Canyon Dr is part of the LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert, who selected the artist. Their organization is pleased with the community member's work and are disappointed with the request to remove it. Request that comments are taken into consideration as they vote on this item.

Chair Armstrong stated that the action is being considered because the wrong box was painted and it's a box not owned by the City.

Jamie O'Neil, artist that painted box at 1305 N. Palm Canyon Dr., received site information from City staff. Chair Armstrong noted that he was not part of that conversation, but received a request from SCE, so the artwork must be removed. The check for payment of the artwork is being processed.

**H. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Chair Armstrong stated that the last six weeks have been busy as projects they've been working on for the last 1 ½ years are coming to fruition. The application portal for the pillars is now live and Commissioners are encouraged to solicit applications from their art network. The goal is to get a large and diverse group of applicants. Next steps will be addressed at the next meeting.

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

Vice Chair Newkirk thanked departing Commissioner Pritchard for his service.

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

1. Discuss and approve a budget amendment of \$5,000 to increase contract with Tysen Knight to remove paint from unauthorized utility boxes at 1305 North Palm Canyon and to do maintenance on other boxes.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT. [Commissioner Ramirez was sworn in at approximately 5:45 PM].

2. Discuss and approve end of utility box project and require all in-process projects to be complete by June 30, 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE END OF THE UTILITY BOX PROGRAM.

3. Discuss and approve budget of \$2,690 to repaint to Nines and Elevens to artist specifications

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR NEWKIRK, CARRIED 3-0 TO APPROVE, WITH COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ ABSTAINING, A BUDGET OF \$2,690 TO REPAINT NINES AND ELEVENS TO ARTIST SPECIFICATIONS.

4. Discuss and approve a budget of \$25,000 for on-call engineer services to prepare public art installation plans

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$25,000 FOR ON-CALL ENGINEER SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION PLANS.

5. Discuss and approve a budget of \$500 for a plaque for Popsicles installation in engraved brushed steel from Best Signs to conform to correct language and new site.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ, SECONDED BY CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$500 FOR THE PLAQUE FOR THE POPSICLES INSTALLATION

#### **K. PROJECT UPDATES – Chair Armstrong:**

1. Airport Mural  
Palm Springs Welcomes You mural was approved by the City Council. Commission members need to select an artist and present it with a sketch to the full commission, before it goes to Airport staff, Airport Commission, and the City Council for approval. A general placement plan was reviewed with Adam Lerner (Palm Springs Art Museum) to address the current artworks and ongoing airport expansion work. Jay Virata to send dimensions of the work to Commissioner Ramirez.
2. Frances Stevens Park Tablets / Gallery Project  
Initially, eight tablets were presented at the last Commission meeting, and they would be rotated on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Feedback was informally solicited from one Council member, and it was suggested that the focus should be to bring art to each of the individual parks. The specific needs of different parks, e.g., lack of shade, construction, should be considered in making

selections for each site. Updates regarding the Art Park, the Ryan Campbell installation and the removal of the car installation discussed.

**L. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF: JAY VIRATA**

1. Confirmation with the Commissioners of the cancellation of the regularly scheduled meeting on June 21, 2023.
2. Commissioner mentioned that two council members asked if it was possible to change the timing of these Commission meetings because they conflict with the Airport Commission meetings. Jay to review possible times.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission will adjourn to a meeting on July 19, 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 AND SECONDED, CARRIED 4-0 TO ADJOURN at 6:19 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 19, 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