

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
July 19, 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 Gary Armstrong on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Melissa Shelton, Tom Burns, Carlos Silveira, Vice Chair Barrett Newkirk, Chair Gary Armstrong

Not present: Shawnda Thomas Faveau and Christopher Ramirez

City Staff: Jay Virata

**C. WELCOME TO THE NEW COMMISSIONERS**

**D. PRESENTATIONS:** None

**E. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR NEWKIRK TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Paul Henrickson, Upper Westside Neighborhood Organization: Suggestion for the installation of a memorial and park for Lawrence Crossley on a city lot at the south end of the Lawrence Crossley organization. A proposal has been shared with the Human Rights Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Public Arts Commission.

**G. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Welcome to new Commissioners. The abundance of ideas coupled with the lack of Commission members recently has been challenging. The diversity of backgrounds, opinions, personalities and perspectives of this current commission

will be beneficial. Commission members are encouraged to ask hard questions and provide strong opinions. The Commission should workshop together, with ideas presented to the group for structuring. Review of current programs for assignment to Commissioners. Moving forward the focus will be on big and important pieces of artwork, and on managing select community engagement pieces with inexperienced and non-traditional artists.

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

Vice Chair Newkirk offered to continue the maintenance review of artwork, which he assisted with in 2021.

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

1. Request from the Palm Springs Arts Commission for \$25,000 grant for the de-installation and return of the sculpture “History of Suspended Time,” by Gonzalo Lebrija.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SILVEIRA, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE GRANT. [COMMISSIONER SHELTON RECUSED HERSELF AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM].

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

1. Airport Art Update  
The Airport Commission is supportive of public art. There are currently two initiatives: a mural on the concourse, which is in the solicitation phase, and the re-siting of existing artwork to increase their visibility and to protect them during renovations. Lengthy approval process for the Airport was outlined, need to plan for timing. The Airport would like to add more artwork, and a copy of their renovation plans has been requested.
2. Pillars evaluation and next steps  
Plan was approved by City Council in April 2023. Height will be increased to 12,’ per the request of City Council. Landscaping and professional photographs requested to make the installation a highlight in city promotions. Solicitation through Procurement for these artworks has received 125 applications, closing date is July 25, 2023; subsequent review, evaluation, and selection process outlined. Possible special commission meeting in August to review and announce selections. Target date for completion and installation is April 15, 2024.
3. Eco-Art  
General review and update provided.

**K. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:**

1. City \$300,000 Grant for Palm Springs Art Museum Free Thursday Night Program was approved by City Council. Funds will be provided from the City's General Fund.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission will adjourn to a meeting on September 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of Palm Springs City Hall located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR NEWKIRK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, CARRIED 6-0 TO ADJOURN at 6:17 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, AT 5:30 PM IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development Department