

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

**January 4, 2024**

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, January 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Shawnda Thomas Faveau, Carlos Silveira, Christopher Ramirez, Tom Burns, Vice Chair Newkirk, and Chair Armstrong. Not present: Commissioners Melissa Shelton and Christopher Ramirez.

City Staff: Director, Jay Virata

**C. PRESENTATIONS:**

**D. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Janice Kleinschmidt of the El Rancho Vista Estates Neighborhood Organization wanted to be on hand to clear up any confusion that may have resulted from her presentation in December, as well as clarify that they believe the project should be fully funded by the City—the Red Dragon funding model shouldn't apply.

**F. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

The Chair remarked on the overwhelmingly positive accomplishments of the commission over the past six months and did a rundown of active projects: The Pillars of Palm Springs project to be installed on World Art Day 2024, the Beautiful Shade program in collaboration with the Sustainability Commission and the Parks Department, the Eco-Art Walk project along Riverside, the Crawler installation, the Pop Art Park project (an installation of popsicles, lawn chairs, and pinwheels art), the Park Art installation, the

Airport Mural project, the Airport Art sub-committee, and the upcoming Red Dragon dedication. Additionally, there is a project underway to catalog all of the City's public art and several other ongoing projects and assignments with different components to be managed by the Commission. Based on his lessons learned so far, the Chair suggested that each new project have a team leader from the commission attached to it, that a contingency that is 20% above the contract price be added to a project's budget, and the Commission ought to make calculated decisions about the projects they choose to take on.

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

Vice Chair Newkirk suggested that it would be helpful to have a checklist of the steps and considerations involved in the public art acquisition process, from approval to installation. This would be helpful to both current and future commissioners.

**H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the meeting of December 20, 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER FAVEAU, CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

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

1. Consider request from El Ranch Vista Estates for Gene Autry Trail Park Public Art

Commissioner Burns agreed to inspect the site to see whether it's a project he could lead.

2. Selection of Palm Springs Airport Mural

MOTION TO APPROVE WITH SOME REVISIONS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SILVEIRA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER FAVEAU, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT LOGAN ADAIR'S CONCEPT AND START WORKING WITH HIM.

3. Park Art Installation Update and Discussion (Victoria Park, JOJ Community Center)

Chair Armstrong shared some points about this project that are still being considered. This includes how the park is being used by residents during the day *and* at night, which would dictate what type of art is installed, as well as what the Call for Artists process should look like. He will do a write-up to be circulated before the next meeting.

**J. PROJECT UPDATES:**

1. Art Collection Inventory – Vice Chair Newkirk gave an update of the challenges involved with this task, such as tracking down *all* the art we own and finding out

the background on older pieces. It was decided to consider hiring a specialist with expertise in doing things like tracking and researching, doing art valuation, securing insurance, etc.

2. Red Dragon Donation Ceremony – Chair Armstrong reminded everyone of the time of the dedication and encouraged those who are able, to come.
3. Pillars of Palm Springs – Director Virata and Chair Armstrong discussed the status of the electrical considerations, such as permits, required by three of the six artists.
4. Beautiful Shade – Commissioner Silveira agreed to join Commissioner Burns and Chair Armstrong in heading up the sub-committee for this project.
5. Asphalt Art Update – Commissioner Silveira indicated that he had an artist in mind that he would like to invite to present a Zen-themed teamwork project that would be painted by community members. Chair Armstrong suggested getting multiple artists' work to consider. The durability of the paint, materials and the process used was discussed as well as other considerations to be made.
6. Wyatt Mural Subcommittee Update – Commissioners Ramirez and Faveau shared that they had a meeting with the community leaders scheduled and would have more to up at the next meeting.

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

Director Virata shared that with this meeting, the commission is reverting back to in-person attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a meeting on February 1, 2024, 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 ARMSTRONG, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR NEWKIRK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN at 6:56 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2024, AT 5:30 PM IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Jay Virata, Director  
Housing & Community Development Department