

**Public Arts Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, October 8, 2015  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair Sheffer

**ROLL CALL:**

	<u>Present This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joshua Edmundson	x	2	1	
Mara Gladstone	x	3		
Bonnie Ruttan		2	1	
Amy Sand	x	3		
Ann Sheffer	x	3		
Thomas Yanni	x	3		

**ALSO PRESENT:** David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager  
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sand, second by Commissioner Edmundson, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for Thursday, October 8, 2015; unanimously carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bill Schinsky, Commissioner, City of Indio Public Arts Commission

Mr. Schinsky is also the Founder and Director of The Coachella Valley Arts Center in Indio. Here today representing the City of Indio/Public Arts Commission and City of Palm Desert/Public Arts Commission to extend an invitation to participate in an all-valley public arts commission meeting on November 19 at College of the Desert, 5:30-7:30, Visual Arts building. There will be a panel of representatives from each of the cities. There will be a guest speaker from Los Angeles to speak about public art and where it's headed these days, followed by a small reception. Commissioners, elected officials and other staff members are invited to attend.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sand, second by Commissioner Edmundson, to approve Regular meeting Minutes of September 10, 2015; unanimously carried

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** Mr. Ready will participate on each Agenda item as necessary.

**A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Event Center Space, Downtown Revitalization Plan Ad-Hoc Committee Report  
Presentation by Committee Member Chair, Ann Sheffer

As Chair of this Committee, Ms. Sheffer would like to periodically update the Commission on the progress of the new downtown event space; graphics of the site were shown (two (2) attached); discussion followed.

Mr. Ready advised the Commission that this will be a very important item for City Council and Measure J Commission; mostly Measure J funded. It will also be extremely important for the Public Arts Commission to advise and take a proactive roll on the design and recommendation for expenditure. Mr. Ready advised Chair Sheffer that creating a subcommittee for this project would be recommended.

There was no legislative action taken.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. None.

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Public Art Sculpture Relocation  
Discuss John F. Kennedy Sculpture, Review Possible Relocation Site at Palm Springs International Airport.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Direct Staff as Appropriate

Possible installation site at City Hall, which was previously discussed, did not meet qualifications for placement as outlined in Public Art Ordinance. New location for consideration is a planter at west entrance to Palm Springs International Airport; center entrance at the front of the building (image of location attached). A pad is already in place as the previous piece was uninstalled; will need to go before the Airport Commission for approval to install a new piece at this site.

Ms. Henning advised the Commission that the gentleman who suggested this site worked for the Kennedy Administration and we are very lucky to be working with him at City Hall. Would like to have the piece installed before November 22<sup>nd</sup> (52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Kennedy assassination); Mr. Ready told the Commission about Mr. Charles Dunn, who works here at City Hall; It is believed, Mr. Dunn is the last survivor that was on Air Force One on November 22, 1963; Mr. Dunn was the State Champion Typist for the State of Louisiana when he was 18 or 19 years old...he went to Washington D.C. and his typing skills procured him a position in The White House working with Evelyn Lincoln, The President's secretary. Mr. Dunn would sit behind Mrs. Lincoln typing (what was being said) as she took dictation from The President; he suggested this location as President Kennedy was here often. Mr. Ready advised that the Airport should pay for the relocation and costs would not come from the Public Art budget; a dedication could take place on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sand, second by Commissioner Gladstone, to approve the planter in front of Palm Springs International Airport main entrance as a place to reinstall the Kennedy bust with the Airport paying for the reinstallation, subject to the Palm Springs International Airport Approval; unanimously carried

There was a brief discussion regarding the plaque.

4. Public Art Sculpture Restoration Project  
Subcommittee Update on the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Mural Conservation Efforts

Commissioner Sand and Ms. Henning will be attending the next Community Meeting at the Desert Highland Unity Center (Tuesday, October 13); they will be on the Agenda to discuss the mural conservation, digital archiving and partnering in these efforts. Commissioner Sand and Mr. Crawford discussed installing a significant piece of art sometime in the future for that site; will help keep the community highly visible.

5. Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Project  
Staff Report Providing Updated Cost Proposal, Project timeline, Review Proposals and Select Photographer to Document Restoration Process.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion and Direct Staff as Appropriate

Staff reported that restoration will not begin on October 12 – staff is still working on getting the appropriate insurance in place (should be complete by October 9<sup>th</sup>). Once the insurance is in place, a date can be scheduled for restoration to begin.

Staff has received three (3) bids for photographers to document the restoration; Chair Sheffer feels the bids are quite a bit above the amount discussed at the last meeting; could do this on a smaller scale, (average \$4,500).

Commissioner Gladstone – do not need someone at the site documenting [all day, each day] as the restoration is taking place; if the time is reduced, i.e., ½-day for a few days, the price may be close to what was previously anticipated.

Staff – a budget of approximately \$2,500 would be appropriate for this project. Ms. Henning will work with “The Studio” (lowest bid) to bring this project within the approved amount.

Staff reported that the quoted amount for restoration of the Totem has gone up \$1,200 due to the recent change in monetary exchange rates and increases in air fare.

Media/press releases were briefly discussed. Staff advised the Commission that any press releases must be approved by the City prior to publication. Staff will work with the City’s Public Information Officer and direction of the City Manager. Commissioner Sand would also like Sunnylands to be contacted due to the work that was completed on their Hunt Totem Pole. Commissioner Edmundson will provide a fact sheet that he has prepared with information on both totems.

Staff will be contacting Vista Del Monte – need to finalize dates and details; Staff will advise the Commission regarding school participation.

6. Public Art Proposal for Ruth Hardy Park  
Provide Project Update on the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Public Art Proposal.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff Update

Staff – this item has gone to Parks & Recreation and has been approved; there were concerns that a precedent might be being set for other organizations and groups to come forward with similar types of memorials, i.e., aids, cancer; Parks & Rec requested that a plaque be placed with the piece that provides information about the piece, the artist and what the piece represents.

Staff advised that the founders of this project have raised almost \$10,000; they are currently working on details with an artist that is coming on board with the project.

7. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2015-16 Programming  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show, February 2016  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion and Direct Staff as Appropriate

Staff – brief update on dates, schedule and the prospectus; the prospectus will be going out just before Thanksgiving.

8. Review Loan Agreement with the Palm Springs Art Museum for Eight (8) Sculptures on Temporary Exhibit at the Palm Springs International Airport.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion and Direct Staff as Appropriate

Staff – gave a brief background regarding the no fee loan agreement for the temporary exhibit (5 years or longer) for these pieces at the Palm Springs International Airport; the City maintains the artwork. Mr. Ready advised that this was a no fee loan agreement; the museum is now requesting an annual fee of \$1,500, Mr. Ready stated that the Airport will be asked to pay the fee. Currently there are seven sculptures installed at the Airport (not eight); maintenance costs are approximately \$6,000 per year.

Chair Sheffer is on the Board of Trustees at the Palm Springs Art Museum; Commissioner Gladstone is an employee of the museum as a curator. Mr. Ready advised that there will be no action taken at the meeting today and this will be taken care of through the Airport. This conversation is informative only.

Staff will have the Agreement approved as to form by the City Attorney, Mr. Ready will sign the Agreement and it does not need Council approval.

**D. LEGISLATIVE:**

9. None.

**E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

10. Special Projects – Discuss and Prioritize Goals and New Public Art Opportunities for 2015-16, Report by Chair Sheffer.

Chair Sheffer and Vice Chair Yanni – would like to prioritize goals/“wish list”; asked commissioners to advise what they would like to see happen and work on for the next few months to years. Staff advised that the best way to send items to commissioners is to send items of interest and goals always to staff first as Ms. Henning can send an email out to all commissioners, however, commissioners cannot. Vice Chair Yanni will be happy to receive the suggestions (from Staff),

organize and compile them for commission review. Chair Sheffer asked that this item be on next month's Agenda. Commissioner Sand would like to see all the suggestions prior to discussing at the next meeting.

Chair Sheffer – would like to know more about the background of each commissioner and would like a copy of the commissioner's applications.

Chair Sheffer – would like to write a history of the commission, and accomplishments since its formation in 1988; would like to present accomplishments and upcoming projects to Council. Chair Sheffer also advised, in reviewing the website, there are pictures of about 40 sculptures/pieces of artwork; however, there are no descriptions of the pieces. Staff advised that the City has recently launched the new website and at this time it continues to be updated.

Mr. Ready – as you continue to prioritize projects, look at a couple that you may want to complete during the year keeping the budget in mind; also, may be able to find different funding sources depending on the project.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Gladstone – Commissioner Gladstone is a new homeowner in Chino Canyon; there is a lot of development, new hotels, etc. – would like to consider new bike lanes in that area.

Commissioner Edmundson – no comments

Chair Sheffer – thanked Mr. Ready; has read that there is a new Community & Economic Development Director.

Commissioner Sand – thanked Mr. Ready for his support, appreciates it.

Vice Chair Gianni – no comments

#### **REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER:**

Mr. Ready – Lauri Aylaian has been hired as the new Director of Community & Economic Development; she comes from the City of Palm Desert where she served for 15 years (included overseeing Public Art). Ms. Aylaian will now attend the Public Arts Commission meetings. Mr. Ready will always be available.

**REPORTS OF STAFF:** 1) Project Update: Artist Designed Bicycle Racks are currently being fabricated and will be ready for delivery in a couple of months. Staff would like to meet with the subcommittee and discuss a couple of locations for installation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:15 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 12, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, Council Chamber, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

Adjournment unanimously approved by a Motion of the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of October; unanimously carried.