

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



**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, September 10, 2015  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Temporary Chairperson Amy Sand

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager  
James Thompson, Chief of Staff, City Clerk  
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Commissioner Yanni, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for Thursday, September 10, 2015; unanimously carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**Commissioner Gladstone arrived at 2:09 p.m.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sheffer, second by Commissioner Yanni, to approve Regular meeting Minutes of July 9, 2015; unanimously carried

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** There were no City Manager Comments.

**A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. None

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015-16 Term

Commissioner Ruttan nominated Temporary Chair Sand for Chair for the 2015-16 Term. Chair Sand respectfully declined the nomination.

Commissioner Gladstone nominated Commissioner Sheffer for Chair for the 2015-16 Term; Commissioner Edmundson seconded the nomination; there were no further nominations for the position of Chair; Commissioner Sheffer was selected as Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Sand nominated Commissioner Yanni for Vice Chair for the 2015-16 Term; Commissioner Edmundson nominated Commissioner Gladstone for Vice Chair for the 2015-16 Term; Commissioner Gladstone declined the nomination; there were no further nominations for the position of Vice Chair; Commissioner Yanni was selected as Vice Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Yanni requested an explanation of the responsibilities of Vice Chair; City Clerk, James Thompson, explained that by Ordinance there are no further powers and/or duties of the Chair and Vice Chair except to run and conduct the meetings; the Chair is the primary spokesperson for the Commission at Public Comments; the Vice Chair also takes over the duties of the Chair when they are absent.

3. 2015-16 Public Arts Budget Review  
Presentation Regarding Approved Funding Allocations  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive Report from City Manager

Mr. Ready explained various budget items for the Commission, i.e., Unallocated and Developer Agreements line items.

Mr. Ready advised that the line items currently on the budget for water and electricity (Rainmaker Fountain expenses) no longer apply and will be removed as expenditure line items and the funds will be transferred to the unallocated expenditure account.

Ms. Henning explained the Developer's Art-in-Lieu procedure, including, maintenance responsibilities and accessibility to the public; a copy of the Public Art Ordinance will be emailed to all commissioners.

Commissioner Ruttan – would like to make a recommendation to possibly use some of the funds to provide additional hours for staff to work on upcoming projects. Mr. Ready advised that it would be acceptable to recommend additional staff hours (expenditure) from unallocated funds.

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4. Assignment of Subcommittees and Members  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Direct Staff as Appropriate

Chair Sheffer – would like to have ad hoc committees for some upcoming projects; Subcommittee assignments were completed.

5. Public Art Sculpture Restoration and Relocation, Discuss:
  - 1) John F. Kennedy Sculpture Possible Relocation Sites, Tahquitz Canyon Way Median Project Update;
  - 2) Restoration of James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center Mural by Richard Wyatt; and,
  - 3) Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Update

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss Installation Sites and Subcommittee Report on Restoration Options for Richard Wyatt Mural

- 1) Commissioner Edmundson – suggested installation of the John F. Kennedy Sculpture in the courtyard at City Hall. Staff advised that the recommendation would need to go to the Historic Sites Preservation Board (HSPB) for their recommendation as City Hall is a historic site. The recommendation would then go to Council.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Commissioner Sand, to move the John F. Kennedy bust/sculpture to the courtyard area or lobby at City Hall; unanimously carried

- 2) Restoration of James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center Mural by Richard Wyatt

Staff, with Commissioners Sand and Yanni, have met with the Center’s Director, Jarvis Crawford. It was determined they would like for members of the Arts Commission to address their community at one of their upcoming community meetings regarding the importance of this mural; they also discussed documenting the restoration process. Mr. Crawford advised staff and the commissioners that many visitors from out of town come to see and photograph the Richard Wyatt mural.

They are going build an amphitheater at the Desert Highland Unity Center; could possibly integrate artwork.

Vice Chair Yanni advised that at that meeting Mr. Crawford did not seem particularly disturbed about letting the mural go and seemed to be in agreement by the Artist that maybe it is time. Commissioners want to insure the community that they have not been forgotten by the Arts Commission.

- 3) Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Update – Staff presented the final proposal from the Hunt Family; Ms. Henning is currently finalizing the City’s Agreement and assuring that all insurance requirements are met prior to work beginning. The goal is to start work on October 12<sup>th</sup> (Agreement must be fully-executed and City required insurance in place).

Students will be at the site to observe the work being done but will not participate in the actual restoration; the Totem will be restored at the site and stored in the evening, possibly across the street at the fire station.

The restoration process will be well documented; the commission will determine a budget for documentation, i.e., hire photographer/videographer keeping within a smaller budget or possibly contract with a different organization such as the museum (suggested by Chair Sheffer) at a higher cost. Commissioner Gladstone also suggested *Digicom* (works with students on professional projects); they are a community non-profit organization. Commissioner Gladstone would like to discuss this at the subcommittee level (Publicity/Arts Outreach) prior to the October meeting. Commissioner Ruttan suggested looking into the high school videography classes and possibly make this a class project to document the process rather than spending a

larger amount of the budget. Commissioner Gladstone feels that a cap of approximately \$2,000-\$2,500 is adequate to cover the documentation of this project. Maintenance guidelines will be provided and adhered to; a dedication ceremony will take place after the restoration is completed.

6. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2015-16 Programming
  - 1) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show, February 2016; and,
  - 2) Review and Prioritize Goals and New Public Art Opportunities

- 1) The Desert Arts Center is eager to host the exhibit; It had been discussed to “reuse” our “reuse, recycle, rethink” theme for the February 2016 art show; Ms. Henning has spoken to graphic designer Gary Wexler who will work with us again and will update and make minor changes to the prospectus. Possible volunteer jurors have been contacted to see if there is interest in jurying this exhibit – staff is waiting to hear back.

Chair Sheffer asked if we have to pay anything to the Desert Arts Center – Staff advised that we do not, it is a City owned facility – we have a great relationship with Desert Arts. Chair Sheffer asked about costs – Staff advised there are costs associated with the printing of the prospectus, cost of the awards, cost of reception and some other miscellaneous items. There is not an allocated line item in the budget for the art show; we also collect a fee of \$40 per entry to enter the show; revenue collected does cover some costs.

- 2) Chair Sheffer – if everyone could look at the list of ideas and add their priorities and goals. Would like this item on the Agenda for October, (placed at the beginning of the meeting). Commissioner Sand – would like to suggest developing a list of public artists (with photographs of artwork) that could be given out at the time a developer pulls building permit(s); sort of a digital library.

**D. LEGISLATIVE**

7. None.

**E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8. None.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Gladstone – Looking forward to the next meeting; getting goals and priority projects on the Agenda for the year ahead; will be in touch with subcommittee members.

Commissioner Edmundson – congratulations to the new Chair and Vice Chair; thank you to Mr. Ready and Ms. Henning for all their help; excited for all the progress we are making for the year to come.

Commissioner Ruttan – also congratulate our new Chairpersons; looking forward to the possibility of more staff time, a good direction to go; looking forward to the future.

Chair Sheffer – would like Airport Artwork Maintenance (Agreement?) be placed on next month’s Agenda.

Commissioner Sand – It is exciting to be here with all the new faces and looking forward to all the new input; always exciting to have new opinions even if we agree to disagree; looking forward to the new year. Would like the downtown event center added to next month’s agenda; very excited to see what happens in that space.

Vice Chair Yanni – Congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair; looking forward to the coming year and working with the subcommittees.

Chair Sheffer – thanked the commission for selecting her as Chair; looking forward to the process of working with other organizations and other parts of the City rather than just going it alone; thanked Mr. Ready for participating in the meetings.

**REPORTS OF STAFF:** 1) Project Update: Public Art Proposal for Ruth Hardy Park – Initial Proposal Made by Thomi Clinton, President/Founder of Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Palm Springs and Transgender Community Coalition.

An RFP was been developed to Call for Artists; it closed on September 3<sup>rd</sup> but had a limited response; the RFP has been reopened to solicit additional artists' proposals.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:31 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

Adjournment unanimously approved by a Motion of the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission this 10th Day of September; unanimously carried.

Approved by a Motion of the Public Arts Commission this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2015.

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Paula Jean Sweat  
Economic Development Program Assistant