

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



**MINUTES
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, November 12, 2015
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:21 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	3	1	
Mara Gladstone		3	1	
Bonnie Ruttan	x	3	1	
Amy Sand	x	4		
Ann Sheffer	x	4		
Thomas Yanni	x	4		

ALSO PRESENT: David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager
Lauri Aylaian, Director, Community & Economic Development
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

ANY DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR COMMENTS PRIOR TO CALL TO ORDER (1:21), ARE NOT INCLUDED AS A RECORD OF THIS MEETING –THERE WAS NO QUORUM TO CONDUCT COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM 1:00 TO 1:21 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments

Mr. Charles Dunn, present for discussion regarding John F. Kennedy Sculpture

Edwin (last name inaudible on tape) – attending meetings; interest in Public Arts Commission.

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

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. Public Arts Event Proposal: City Seats™ Palm Springs, 2016-17
Presenter, Jeff Weyant

1:21 JOSHUA EDMUNDSON ARRIVED

1:21 CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Henning took roll call of the Commission – Commissioners present: Bonnie Ruttan, Amy Sand, Joshua Edmundson and Chair Sheffer.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

MOTION: by Commissioner Sand, second by Commissioner Edmundson, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for Thursday, November 12, 2015; unanimously carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Commissioner Sand, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2015; unanimously carried

Discussion of Public Arts Event Proposal: City Seats™ Palm Springs, 2016-17 – transcription of this item began at 1:21 p.m. due to lack of quorum previously. Any presentation/discussion prior to quorum being present has not been included.

(100-150 chairs, 1st year) The base footprint is 2'X2' by 1' high; the base could be weighted; the chair will be connected to the base; this is a public art event and will be in place for approximately three (3) months. The chairs will be painted/decorated by artists, installed temporarily and auctioned at the end of the event; not a permanent installation; however, permanent installations could take place after the auction.

Here today to seek Commission approval; not looking for funding; however, would like the City's endorsement; would also possibly look to the City to help with sites and installation(s).

David Ready – advised that by the very nature that this is a chair, people will probably try to remove them; wants to ensure that there will not be an expectation that the City of Palm Springs would be responsible for the chairs.

Mr. Weyant explained that the chairs will be installed on a base.

Chair Sheffer – this item will be placed on the December 10th Agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Sand – must keep in mind the finish of the chairs; the desert environment is harsh and the chairs will need protection from sand, wind and sun.

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: Select and Approve Relocation Site

Ms. Henning – three sites were proposed by subcommittee; those sites have gone before Airport Commission and Airport Director; they are in agreement with any site the Commission chooses.

Ms. Henning – stated that at last month’s meeting it was decided (by motion of the Commission) to install the piece at the west entrance planter; it was then thought that the site was not ideal. The three sites now open for discussion are: 1) off El Cielo Road, west of the Pearl McManus Fountain; 2) vacant sculpture pad in secure area; and 3) the originally proposed planter at the west entrance to the airport.

There was a brief discussion regarding the ease/difficulties of each site for installation purposes.

Commissioner Edmundson – in favor of the first site as it is more public, however, is concerned about the front of the airport being turned into a sculpture garden.

Commissioner Sand – likes the vacant sculpture pad in the secure area; would like to see it in a high foot traffic area.

Commissioner Ruttan – in favor of the site off El Cielo Road; staff has stated that there is quite a bit of foot traffic going past the fountain into the airport.

Mr. Ready advised that 3,000,000 people per year come through the airport.

MOTION: by Chair Sheffer, second by Commissioner Sand, use the location inside the airport; unanimously carried

Mr. Ready will make all efforts to have the piece installed prior to November 22nd – 52nd anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Ready – City Council will need to approve maintenance of the piece; will notify and brief Council on the installation.

Commissioner Sand – would like to make a personal invitation to Mr. Charles Dunn (present at today’s meeting) to attend the unveiling. As discussed at last month’s meeting, Mr. Dunn is the last known survivor that was aboard Air Force One on that tragic day.

Chair Sheffer apologized for the jumbled order of the meeting; asked Mr. Ready to introduce Lauri Aylaian, the new Community and Economic Development Director. Ms. Aylaian was previously at the City of Palm Desert. Lauri will be the departmental liaison to the Commission. Ms. Aylaian introduced herself and spoke briefly to the Commission.

Ms. Aylaian – The Commission wanted to discuss some different verbiage for the plaque or photographs involved. Does the Commission want to give direction or appoint one of the Commissioners to work with Staff to come up with the text for the plaque?

Joshua Edmundson volunteered to work on the plaque with Ms. Henning. The Commission would like to try and find some of the historic pictures during President Kennedy’s visits to the desert.

Ms. Aylaian advised that this would then come back to the Commission for informational purposes only; no action will need to be taken.

4. Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Project
Restoration Project Update
RECOMMENDATION: Receive Verbal Staff Update

The Hunt Totem Pole is in the process of being restored by the Hunt Family; restoration is taking place at the City of Palm Springs Fire Station No. 3 (across the street from its permanent site at Victoria Park). They will be restoring the totem through Sunday; everyone is invited to go by and see the restoration.

When discussing maintenance and restoration, this totem is a good example; it has been in the park with a sprinkler that would hit it; when they took it down it was wet completely through; they have made some suggestions as to how it can be put back; if it is reinstalled it will only tolerate outside conditions for about five (5) more years. The Hunt Family is amicable to the piece being displayed indoors or undercover at a minimum; the outdoor elements are just too harsh for this piece.

Chair Sheffer -- At the park entrance there is a large area with an overhang that would protect the piece; it should be the representation of the park.

It was found that when the City of Victoria presented the totem pole to the City of Palm Springs, the City of Palm Springs, in return, gave the City of Victoria 100 rose bushes from Moorten's Botanical Gardens. The children/grandchildren of Moorten's believe the family may have photos from the presentation/exchange.

On November 13, 132 students from Vista Del Monte will be at the site to learn about the totem and the restoration; the Hunt family is looking forward to the visit with the students.

Commissioner Edmundson – would be great to have a photo of the two sons (Hunt and Moorten families) that today still continue their family businesses/heritage.

VICE CHAIR YANNI ARRIVED AT 1:51 P.M.

Commissioner Ruttan – this might be a good opportunity to move some pieces around; also, there was no publicity on the totem restoration from City Hall, no press release? The community was not aware it was happening; Ms. Henning did send out a very informational email that was reposted on Facebook and there was a great response from the community. Curt Seer from one of the modernism tours has been going by every day and photographing the process and posting pictures on social media. It is discouraging that the City rarely gives the Arts Commission publicity on the programs that we are accomplishing. This is a very interesting process and should have been out in the community. Public relations and publicity should start with the City.

Commissioner Sand – if this item is on the Agenda for the December meeting, as far as placement, understands the feelings of having it connected to the park, however, it would live forever if it were moved indoors; possibly at Cielo Vista. Also, wanted everyone to know there is a documentary on the Hunt Family when they created a totem pole in Argentina; would like to have a follow-up with the students for the educational component.

Ms. Aylaian – will look into the City's procedures on press releases and report back next month.

Commissioner Ruttan – just astonished that a former Chair of this Commission would go, or have to go, to the media for publicity, when we, as the Commission cannot go to the media ourselves because it has to go through the City, which does not do PR for our Commission.

5. Public Art Proposal for Ruth Hardy Park
Provide Project Update on Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Public Art Proposal and Request for Project Funding, Presentation by Thomi Clinton
RECOMMENDATION: Review Proposal Updates and Make Recommendation on Funding Request

Thomi Clinton updated the Commission on this project; has met with Artist Heath Satow who is interested in doing this project; Thomi presented a metal butterfly, created by Heath, representing the butterflies that will be used in the sculpture.

At this time Ms. Clinton is seeking funds in the amount of \$4,500; is the Commission interested in helping to fund this project and getting a Heath Satow piece installed (at a discounted rate); Desert Regional will also be supporting this project.

There will be a candlelight vigil in Ruth Hardy Park on Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20 (5:00–9:00).

Staff – all acquisitions of public art go to City Council for approval, whether they are purchased or donated to the City. At this time it would probably be best to approve funding for the project in the amount of \$4,500; the donation will be accepted at a later date.

The Commission is very encouraged and excited by the progress made on this project; happy to hear that Heath Satow is the selected Artist; the Commission looks forward to seeing completed renderings/presentation or a maquette.

6. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2015-16 Programming
17th Annual Juried Art Show, February 2016, Review Prospectus and Dates
RECOMMENDATION: Receive Verbal Subcommittee Report and Staff Update

Commissioner Ruttan (Subcommittee Chair) – The show will again be held at Desert Arts Center; great venue for this exhibit; brings in many patrons that may not have otherwise come to the center. The final prospectus is complete. Will be reusing the “recycling” theme.

Staff has spoken to Artist Larry White to jury the show; have not heard back from Mr. White. Commissioners will not be jurors this year.

Chair Sheffer would like to see better PR coming from the City on this show.

This exhibit is open to all artists in the Coachella Valley, including the upper desert area.

7. Downtown Palm Springs Park/Event Space Committee Meeting Report
Report by Committee Member Chair Ann Sheffer; Discuss Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times; Possible Curated Artist List; and Potential Cultural Partners.
RECOMMENDATION: Direct Staff As Appropriate

Chair Sheffer – the Committee has met again; at this time there has been no action taken; Planning Commission and Architectural Advisory Committee representatives attended the Nov. 5th meeting; would like to see some of the furniture, i.e., benches and light fixtures have an art element to them; this could be where we make a statement. Commissioner Sand spoke at the meeting regarding what could be programmed into this site (define a broader role for the Public Arts Commission).

Chair Sheffer – would like to have another Study Session (possibly January) to “brainstorm” to look at goals and priorities. If we have a set of goals that are more refined, we could vote on them and then move on to particulars.

There was a [general] discussion regarding Commissioners' lists of goals/priorities; these items can be forwarded to Staff for discussion at an upcoming Study Session.

Chair Sheffer – Likes the City of Glendale's "list". We will get a lot farther if we are working off something.

Commissioner Sand – Looking forward to seeing all the lists; want to see everyone's ideas.

Vice Chair (Yanni) advised Commission was off Agenda topic – asked to go back to discussing Event Space Meeting Report.

Chair Sheffer – advised that the museum has asked Mara Gladstone to form a committee to talk about programs they could do in this new space.

Commissioner Sand – we could curate an artist list for the future sculpture garden; this is something we can do that is fun, doesn't cost the Commission any money and it would be a document we can grow over several years; much like we did with the site list. Feel it is important that an architectural public artist be involved so that we have a very significant piece of art at this site.

Ms. Aylaian – suggested having an artist registry; artists apply to be a part of the registry; a good resource for the Commission; can be given to developers for reference when needed. In Palm Desert there would be 1-6 artists' applications to review at the monthly commission meetings. The registry is on the City of Palm Desert website if anyone would like to review it.

Chair Sheffer – Would like to find out what the intentions of Wessman Development are for this site, providing art or what the art fee would be.

Ms. Aylaian – Wessman Development does not want to pay into the fund; they would prefer to incorporate art into the project. They do have a responsibility to incorporate benches, waste receptacles, site furnishings, lighting, etc. in an aesthetically pleasing way that is appropriate for the project; they also have a responsibility to place public art. At this time the fees may not be coming in from this project as hoped; may have to ask for other funds.

Commissioner Sand – we need to be active in going to meetings; we should be at every event space committee meeting; Planning Commission meetings; need to speak as much as possible.

Ms. Aylaian – add Agenda item at end of meeting regarding upcoming meetings and discuss what Commissioners would be available to attend so you would have representation.

Vice Chair Yanni – feels that when a Commissioner attends a meeting outside of Public Art it would be a good idea to be placed on that meeting PAC agenda with the topic for discussion so that the Commission can give clear direction as to what message should be conveyed on their behalf.

D. LEGISLATIVE:

8. None.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

9. Publicity and Arts Outreach
James O. Jessie Desert Highland Mural Conservation Efforts
Report by Commissioner Sand

Commissioner Sand – reported briefly; still reviewing options on the mural conservation; no action was taken.

10. Special Projects
Discuss and Recommend Prioritization of Goals and New Public Art Opportunities for 2015-16
Report by Vice Chair Yanni

Vice Chair Yanni – does have lists from Commission members; there is some overlap; still in the process of organizing these goals. Will have a report at the next meeting.

Chair Sheffer – would like Staff to report on the last 20-25 years of the City’s public art program.

Staff – will send everyone a copy of the Commission’s current Mission Statement.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Commissioner Edmundson – Excited to have Lauri Aylaian here; wants everyone to think about the Council now that it has changed some. Hears a rumor about the Marilyn statue coming back; where will it be incorporated downtown.

Chair Sheffer – With a new Council, this could be the perfect time for a new Mission Statement; this may be a Council that will not overrule us.

Commissioner Sand – Welcome to Lauri.

Vice Chair Yanni – No Comments.

Commissioner Ruttan – Welcome to Lauri – and still would like to have our half-time person back to full-time. The \$50,000 that is given to the museum does not sit well with most of us.

REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER/STAFF:

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, December 10, 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 12th Day of November; unanimously carried.