

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



**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Sheffer

**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		5	2	
Mara Gladstone	x	6	1	
Bonnie Ruttan	x	6	1	
Amy Sand		6	1	
Ann Sheffer, Chair	x	7		
Thomas Yanni, Vice Chair	x	7		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lauri Aylaiian, Director, Community & Economic Development  
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Gladstone, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for Thursday, February 11, 2016; unanimously carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Eric Chiel – Chair, Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization -- on February 16 at 10:00 a.m., there will be a ceremony in the Twin Palms Neighborhood to change the name of Arquilla Road to William Krisel Way, in honor of the architect who founded “the construction portion” of the neighborhood. The event is free and open to the public.

Chrystal Armstrong – runs a children’s afterschool arts program in the Desert Hot Springs community, but has always lived in Gateway Estates. Spoke briefly on the importance of the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Community Center mural to their community. They are working on ideas that could work in that space if the mural cannot be restored; children creating artwork; something to be proud of and a passion for the community. Chair Sheffer would like this item on next month’s regular meeting agenda.

Russell Pritchard – New Palm Springs resident – wanted to compliment the art show at the Desert Arts Center – it is absolutely brilliant; the artwork selected is superb.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Gladstone, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2016; unanimously carried

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** None

**A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. None

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. None

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Public Art Sculpture Restoration and Conservation  
Discuss Restoration Project Update and Reinstallation Options for Victoria Park Totem Pole  
By First Nation Hunt Family Located at Victoria Park, 2744 N. Via Miraleste  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss Updates and Possible Alternative Site Options

Ms. Henning reported – Information on this restoration and project update, including photographs (slide show), has been added to the City’s website (Projects in Progress). The information also includes the back story on the Henry Hunt Totem Pole. The slide show was shown for the commission.

Lauri Aylaian, Director of Community & Economic Development and Commissioner Josh Edmundson attended the Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Association meeting on Saturday, February 6.

Commissioner Edmundson was unable to attend today’s meeting; Ms. Henning read a report from Commissioner Edmundson regarding the February 6<sup>th</sup> neighborhood meeting.

Donna Chaban, Board Member, Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Association – Thanked Lauri Aylaian and Commissioner Edmundson for coming to speak at the Racquet Club Estates board meeting regarding the Hunt totem pole. Also thanked their President Robert Perry for contacting Ann Rowe at Sunnylands regarding the restoration process of the totem pole.

Ms. Chaban – the Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood agrees on the following: 1) Where the restored totem pole would be placed; 2) the process of placing the totem pole in conjunction with getting a newly carved totem pole for Victoria Park and, 3) protecting the new totem pole by capping off or removing sprinkler heads; (Commissioner Edmundson suggested desert xeriscape at that location). The Board agrees that the Palm Springs International Airport would be an excellent site for installation of the restored totem pole. The neighborhood group has created a subcommittee for this project to work with the Arts Commission.

Vice Chair Yanni – Thanked Ms. Chaban for attending and for the neighborhood’s support of the totem pole; very happy with the restoration and that the video has been posted on You Tube. This comes as a complete surprise as we have not talked about a new totem pole being commissioned; would like to discuss this further.

Commissioner Ruttan – Agrees with Vice Chair Yanni; kind of blind-sided by this; thought this project was done; have no problem with moving and/or protecting the totem pole from deterioration in terms of the landscaping; possibly covering it with something (awing) that would be appropriate to protect it from the elements. Understands if the preference is to move it, however, does not want to replace it; just spent a great deal of money and effort in good faith to do what we did, to think that was for such a short term is concerning to me; our finances are limited; has no problem with doing something to preserve the new totem pole. Need more time to discuss item.

Commissioner Gladstone – my understanding of totem poles and the relationship to First Nation's culture is they are meant to degrade into the earth. The restoration made sense in terms of the totem pole's relationship to the history of the City, that we restore it. Did not know that Victoria was a sister city to Palm Springs. Investigating the history of our relationship to the Hunt's and Victoria more broadly and the First Nation's Tribe, should be a priority; Should desert xeriscape the site regardless of what is installed; would like to continue this discussion.

Chair Sheffer – Get suggestions from the Hunts as to measures we can take to preserve the totem pole; they have expressed their concern about the deterioration of the totem pole; were advised that if it is left outside as it was it would not last more than a few years; find out what further measures we can take to preserve the Totem Pole. We have the beginnings of a book with the photographs and Commissioner Edmundson's research; can look further into why this totem pole was given to the City of Palm Springs. Feels it is important to have the totem pole at Victoria Park as it is the reason for the name change of the park (previously Vista Del Monte Park). May want to consider installation at fire station #3; they were very interested during the restoration process.

Ms. Aylaian advised the commission that the desert xeriscaping will be taken care of at the staff level and will not require commission involvement.

Ms. Aylaian also advised the commission that there is interest in relocating one or two other pieces in the collection; thought we could discuss the relocation of artwork during the Study Session in March. Will need to decide if the commission would like to spend funds on commissioning new artwork or moving artwork around and how those two different approaches work into the budget.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Gladstone, second by Vice Chair Yanni to discuss the totem pole installation at the Study Session; unanimously carried

4. Potential Sculpture Reinstallation Options for "R. HERO" Located at Fire Station #3 from Artists Karen and Tony Barone

**RECOMMENDATION:** Continue to Study Session Agenda as Discussion Item.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Ruttan, second by Vice Chair Yanni to accept Staff Recommendation and continue this item to the Study Session Agenda for discussion; unanimously carried

5. Selection of Study Session Date and Agenda Topics  
Discussion Study Session Agenda Items

**RECOMMENDATION:** Direct Staff as Appropriate

Study Session will be held March 10, immediately following the 2:00 p.m. PAC Regular Meeting.

Vice Chair Yanni – distributed copies of the commissioner's combined "wish list"/timetable (copy attached) to be discussed at Study Session. The list is a combination of commissioner's items they would like to see accomplished, including a possible timeline. Ms. Aylaian reminded the commission that they will not be able to make motions and/or vote at the study session.

Commissioner Gladstone – to clarify, there are three things that we want to do at the Study Session, 1) consider our Mission Statement, 2) refine the wish list and timetable, and 3) evaluate our collection and a top ten list of artworks of concern.

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Gladstone that the agenda items for the Study Session include a discussion of our Mission Statement, a discussion of our wish list and priorities and a discussion of works that need moving or relocating that are currently in the collection; unanimously carried

Commissioners will be provided with a copy of the current Mission Statement, sites list and budget.

**D. LEGISLATIVE:**

6. None

**E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

7. Special Projects Report by Chair Sheffer – no report

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Vice Chair Yanni – enjoyed the juried art show; it was nice to be there and meet the artists when they brought in their artwork. There was a great response at the opening reception – Thanked Mayor Moon and Councilmember Foat for attending. Feels very strongly about bringing a group of students to the exhibit; could have an artist speak to the group, possibly students from the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center. Vice Chair Yanni also reported that he and Commissioner Sand attended the Gateway Estates Neighborhood meeting held at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center to discuss the mural; the history of the mural; and ongoing maintenance costs, etc. It seems to be about 50/50 on whether to keep it or let it go; other options were discussed; very productive meeting. Going forward the subcommittee will continue to work on this item. Staff reiterated the artist’s options for restoration.

Commissioner Ruttan – thanked everyone for participating in the art show; the community is happy that it is back and receiving great feedback; Commissioner Ruttan thanked Jennifer Henning for all of her work and effort on this art exhibit, she worked tirelessly.

Chair Sheffer – we got our toes in the water by getting the word out on social media; it is a way to spread this out. If the App becomes one of our priorities we should explore how we can do it in a way that is not official from the City, but is generated by people who are interested in public art.

**REPORTS OF DIRECTOR/STAFF:**

Ms. Aylaian – does not have anything to report; looks forward to assisting the commission at the Study Session to see where you would like to go from there; encourages anyone that may have time limitations the day of the Study Session to let Jennifer know in advance to plan accordingly. There is nothing new to report on the budget other than items that were outstanding are still outstanding regarding payment to developers, i.e., Escena.

1. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show Update  
Commissioner Ruttan reported that some artists have offered to sit the show.
2. Jungle Red Sculpture Repair Update  
The broken piece is nearly finished being “rebuilt” – reinstallation could be done sometime in May

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:11 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Study Session at 3:00 p.m. at 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 11<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2016; unanimously carried.

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Paula Jean Sweat  
Economic Development Program Assistant