



RENO ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Commission Members

Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair
Gerald Miller, Vice Chair
Dave Aiazzi
Bryce Chisholm
Doug Erwin
Erik Fong
Dana Hatjakes
Nettie Oliverio
Colin Robertson
Vacant
Vacant
Naomi Duerr, City Council
Liaison

DATE: TUESDAY, July 23rd, 2018
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: MCKINLEY ARTS AND CULTURE CENTER
925 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
RENO, NV 89503

- Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair.
Roll Call – Present: Sharon Honig-Bear, Gerald Miller, Vice Chair, Bryce Chisholm, Erik Fong, Nettie Oliverio, Colin Robertson (arrived at 4:10pm). Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator. Alexis Hill, Arts, Culture & Events Manager. Absent: Dave Aiazzi, Doug Erwin, Dana Hatjakes, Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison.
- Public Comment** – Sharon Honig-Bear inquires about this year's Artown. Gerald Miller replies the events have been great, with plenty of events and interest.
- Approval of the Meeting Minutes** – June 12th 2018 Minutes of the Reno Arts & Culture Commission Regular Meeting

Netter Oliverio moves to approve the June 12th 2018 Reno Arts & Culture Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 5 approve, 0 abstain, 4 absent. Motion carried.

- Approval of the Agenda July 23rd, 2018** – Gerald Miller moves to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 5 approve, 0 abstain, 4 absent. Motion carried.

Colin Robertson arrived at 4:10 PM.

- Discussion and possible approval of a call for artwork to purchase for Bicentennial Park Sculpture.**

Sharon Honig-Bear brings up an issue with the wording on the call in that the intent to purchase the art is not clear enough, that there may be some confusion and perhaps that should be changed.

Alexis Hill states that depending on what money they receive, with possibly \$80,000 there may only be 3 pedestals purchased, depending on what the Commission wants, and the Rotary and City Manager are open to this idea.

Eric Fong asks which pieces will stay; Hill responds that the only piece that may stay for certain will be the sculpture titled 'Rhino Man'.

Megan Berner adds that the Arts & Culture Committee has discussed speaking with the artists who currently have work in the park to have them extend the time the pieces stay in the park until new pieces are chosen.

Bryce Chisholm asks about a maintenance budget if we are taking on permanent pieces and Hill replies that there is interest generated from ReTRAC that goes towards the maintenance of other public art sculptures.

Colin Robertson adds that this could be used as a teachable moment for artists in that it makes them think about the long term care of the pieces they create and how to communicate those needs to whoever purchases the art.

Robertson also would like to add that the issue of government speech vs free speech has a meaningful impact on the Commission's purpose and mission.

Nettie Oliverio asks that if the Commission, whose purpose is to choose the highest level of art for the city, no longer does the job they are chosen for does that make them liable for lawsuit because they are not upholding their duty to provide the best art possible for our citizens.

Geralda Miller suggests that better communication with the City is needed and that perhaps the Commission should strongly encourage Naomi Duerr to attend future Commission meetings to foster better communications.

Nettie Oliverio moves to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 6 approve, 0 abstain, 3 absent.

6. **Discussion and possible approval of the RACC participation in Fiesta Latin@ Special Event on September 22, 2018 at Wingfield Park in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.**

Alexis Hill states that the subject will be discussed at a further date as the budget is not yet ready, but would like to add how this event is an opportunity to talk to a new audience.

7. **Discussion and possible approval of FY18/19 public art initiatives and goals to be supported by the City of Reno Public Art Committee.**

Alexis Hill states that the initiative was brought up by a few commissioners who wanted to give the Public Art Committee some more direction on some initiatives and asks if there things that the Commission wants to see the Public Art Committee tackle and adds that anything that does go through the Public Art Committee also goes through the Arts and Culture Commission.

Nettie Oliverio states that as someone who serves on the Public Art Committee board there is a feeling of being gutted by all the regulations and a great deal of worry over the future of the galleries. Oliverio adds her worries towards ideas like the pop up gallery idea, asking where do we draw the line in what is Government speech and what is free speech.

Megan Berner states there are ways the Commission can still work, for example programming private space and giving out grants.

Sharon Honig-Bear states that there is the feeling that the Commission is being reduced to a silent partner and asks how would we get artists if there are issues with government speech.

Colin Robertson states that while the Commission is being faced with difficulties it is also an important change of direction and it gives us the opportunity to reach out to other municipalities who have faced the same issues for guidance.

Alexis Hill states that the big movement in commissions is meaningful inclusion and equity work and the inclusion of the entire community when you talk about grants and funding. Hill adds that including a

diverse commission is very important to represent as much of Reno as possible, and that this is something to bring up to discuss during the retreat in September.

Geralda Miller adds her support of being inclusive and extends it towards being inclusive in our art as well.

Colin Robertson mentions an organization called In Our Backyard that works with community neighborhoods at a very local level to identify projects that the neighborhoods may want to see within their community and then supports the projects while teaching how to crowd fund and asks that we consider something similar for Reno.

Alexis Hill states that these are all ideas that will be discussed at the retreat in September and sets the tentative date for September 17th, 2018.

8. Discussion and possible approval of a new grants and public art project process for FY18/19 and FY19/20.

Alexis Hills states that in the budget there has been a new column added for ‘requested’ to lessen confusion as to what has been encumbered and what has not. Hill clarifies that there is about \$30,000 for the public to come to the commission to ask for funds or the commission can decide on a more active approach on what to do with the funds.

Sharon Honig-Bear states that she would like to discuss the requested column more at the September retreat and brings up an alternative priority of focusing on the arts and education. Asks the question what do we do to impact the community, not support organizations.

Alexis Hill brings up the importance of understanding what meaningful equity is and the conversation around inclusion and equity.

Sharon Honig-Bear suggests that in the next round for the commission to focus on new organizations who haven’t asked for money before.

Colin Robertson states that he is unable to make the September 17th retreat and adds that he would like the commission to have a conversation about the unencumbered funds, instead of making it a grants process use the money to declare the commission’s vision towards inclusion and equity.

9. Discussion, review and possible recommendation on the RACC 2017/18 Strategic Goals, priorities and implementation plan for 2018.

Alexis Hill states that the re-design of the RACC structure is something that has not happened yet and adds the re-design of the grants is something else being worked towards that will be discussed at the September retreat.

Sharon Honig-Bear states that she has spoken to the South Reno Rotary and that it went well, with a great deal of interest and questions for the RACC and would like to contact other Rotary clubs within Reno to continue the conversation about the arts. Honig-Bear also questions the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Advisory Board but recommends talking to the Neighborhood Advisory Board at the very least on an annual basis especially if the plan is to have more connection to community.

Alexis Hill states that there is a strong correlation between receiving grants and a strong partnership between museums and asks that the commission please reach out to constituencies and to the community.

10. Announcements not anticipated at notice date

Alexis Hill states that Michael Orlove is coming to speak in Reno, and that Congressman Amodei helped make it happen. He will be speaking on Thursday, July 26th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the McKinley Arts & Culture Center.

11. Set date, time and agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on August 14th 5:00 pm

12. General Public Comment

Bryce Chisholm states that he currently painting a mural at the Peavine Elementary School.

Geralda Miller reminds the Commission of the importance of inclusion and reaching out to diverse groups. Gives the example of a mariachi band reaching out to local schools to give music lessons.

13. Adjournment

Nettie Oliverio moves to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 6 approve, 0 abstain, 3 absent.