



Reno Arts & Culture Commission Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 2018

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: McKinley Arts & Culture Center Boardroom
925 Riverside Dr., Reno, NV 89503

Commission Members
Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair
Geralda Miller, Vice Chair
Dave Aiazzi
Bryce Chisholm
Mario DelaRosa
Doug Erwin
Erik Fong
Dana Hatjakes
Nettie Oliverio
Colin Robertson
Shaughn Richardson
Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call -

Meeting called to order by Sharon Honig-Bear at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair, Geralda Miller, Vice Chair, Dave Aiazzi (left meeting at 5:50 p.m.), Bryce Chisholm, Doug Erwin (left meeting at 6:55 p.m.), Erik Fong, Nettie Oliverio (arrived at 5:27 p.m.).

Absent: Mario DelaRosa, Dana Hatjakes, Colin Robertson, Shaughn Richardson.

Also Present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator, Alexis Hill, Arts, Culture and Special Events Manager, Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison, David Pritchett, Parks & Rec Liaison.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters –

Steve Smyth speaks. Smyth asks that if there is a mural on City Hall, what will that mural be? He states that in the past he was moved by a piece of work he saw painted on a historical building wall and hopes the City will carefully consider their choice.

Chisholm replies that part of the consideration is the space, and it is site specific. One challenge is that the wall is not completely flat, but in segments.

Michael Pitkin speaks. He has noticed that Reno has many formal social galas and perhaps the Commission would consider doing a rotating working sponsorship. If a member could attend some of the galas throughout the year, they could promote the Commission to a wider audience.

Erwin responds that it is difficult to go to every event, and they can't be at everything at once, but the idea is an interesting one.

3. Approval of the Minutes –

Correction to David Pritchett's name.

Dave Aiazzi moves to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda – December 11th, 2018

Geralda Miller motions to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

5. Presentation by Washoe County on the Artrail Project

John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager, presents. The County is pleased to collaborate with the arts. The vision for the Artrail project is a 200-mile trail of arts, culture, and historic landmarks that celebrates and gives information about Washoe County. The trail will start in Crystal Peak Park, Verdi and journey through Sparks, then Gerlach and everything in-between.

The idea is to connect community to the art trail, and outreach to the more remote/rural residents of Nevada, strengthening community, create opportunities for partnerships, celebrate the uniqueness of Washoe County, and build connections to the Burning Man organization.

There will be two components to the project. The first is new public art at one of two locations: Crystal Peak Park and the town of Gerlach.

The second is an Artrail app that is being developed- an interactive experience that engages the community. Included are history, legends, photos, and way-finding.

The process of acquiring new art included a call for artists within the last year with a community panel, and a community partnership with a group called Roam Collective. The piece chosen was a rammed earth structure by the Hawkins Group.

There is an interesting opportunity to use local artifacts to be placed within the artwork, and the opportunity to include the community to provide artifacts.

Hill states that when the call for artists came out there were largely local artists, most from Burning Man.

A few chosen pieces are an interactive structure in which people are able to go inside.

Burning Man is helping with an interactive story circle by collecting stories and history/heritage from local long-time local residents to be included and celebrated within the Artrail.

Questions.

Honig-Bear asks whether or not they have completed the site selections for the points along the Artrail.

Slaughter replies no. The Crystal Peak Park has been selected, the site in Gerlach is close to being decided and the intermediate sites are under discussion with a possible 18 sites.

Erwin asks about consistent signage along the trail.

Slaughter replies consistent signage is an important part of the trail and will be included.

Miller asks about the budget behind Artrail, and how much was the art.

Slaughter replies the Our Town Grant was \$75,000 and beyond that it will remain to be seen. Slaughter does not know how much the art costs.

[Nettie Oliverio arrived at 5:27]

6. City Council Liaison Report

Duerr summarizes.

The RTC Midtown art meeting has been rescheduled, with various representatives, including Neoma Jardon and Jessica Schneider from Junkee's, to be present.

There is the hope that RTC will cooperate with promoting the arts, and there will be a discussion. To help facilitate, Duerr hopes that there will be an Our Town Grant in the works.

Duerr states that RTC has given a basic commandment for artistic items like benches, tree surrounds, lighting, etc. Duerr put out a number of \$100,000 in addition to the \$30,000 NEA Grant, hoping to put more funds into downtown art.

Previously there was a discussion on holiday décor and Duerr has made some requests. Councilperson Jardon has been in discussion with the business district and made an inquiry to see if the business district could put together holiday cheer in the downtown area, starting in January 2019.

While it's too late for this year, next year there will be money in place for the holiday concept.

Duerr states that she has arranged for Arts & Culture Commission to give a presentation to Council on January 4th. Starting in January the Council will, once a month, take proclamations and presentations of more community orientated nature on the first Friday of each month, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Aiazzi states that there is an agenda item concerning two and a half million dollars for the City, and asks that Duerr remember that she once stated that the City should put extra money into the arts.

Honig-Bear states the City Council is proposed to make their annual contribution towards Artown for \$135,000.

Hill expands on the subject. Last year the number was \$125,000 and this year, as there was an extra \$10,000 budgeted from discretionary funds, the number has changed to \$135,000. One time only.

[Dave Aiazzi left at 5:50 pm]

7. Financial Report and Budget Update

a. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2018/19 Commission Budget Report

Berner summarizes. The RACC budget has not changed greatly. The Artist Professional Developmental Series for the Holland Project was approved. While there is no update, it is reflected in the budget.

Nettie Oliverio motions to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

b. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2018/19 Public Art Budget Report

Public Art has not changed. There is a pending invoice for Space Whale, but it has not been processed.

Nettie Oliverio motions to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

c. Discussion and possible approval of plans for spending of carryover funds

Budget wanted a plan for the carryover that was just discovered and an idea of how it will be spent.

There are some ideas as to how to spend the extra funds. The first is the Art Belongs Here Neighborhood Public Art Grant. Another is the Light Festival for the holiday season with another \$10,000 towards that.

Honig-Bear states that Neoma Jardon mentioned the City might support a light festival but there is a lot of potential and Honig-Bear would like to have more than \$10,000.

Erwin brings up the Midtown area and supporting RTC.

Hill states that there is \$30,000 encumbered to match the NEA Grant, so there is \$60,000 total and there is the possibility of adding more through the Public Art budget. Councilmember Duerr stated she would like to see RTC pony up and possibly have RSCVA donate money as well, though it is unlikely. There is the desire to see other sources of money.

Berner added a suggested \$10,000 for maintenance, as there has been a number of maintenance projects with nothing really set aside.

Erwin asks if the Commission has an idea for the percentage for maintenance cost for the public art collection.

Berner replies they do not. While there has been extensive discussion on the subject it is hard to make an exact calculation for a percentage for every project. Some art pieces need a great deal of maintenance, while others do not.

Erwin asks about the possibility of a rainy day fund.

Berner replies the Public Art Committee has discussed the issue, though nothing definitive came from the discussion. What was suggested was that a certain number be taken out of the budget every year and put into the maintenance fund with a minimum number maintained.

Miller asks if there is a list of art that is in need of maintenance, and is there an estimated cost on those pieces.

Berner replies she does not have one ready at the moment, and for some of the pieces, yes. An example being the Wells Avenue sculpture, in which they are waiting to hear back from insurance.

Hill states that there has been discussion about taking some blight funds for the City to do a large scale City Hall parking garage mural, on the outside. Blight funds have been encumbered for

other things, but there is the thought that the City Hall parking garage is in need of some beautification. It would be connected to the art on the Plaza and a part of the whole look of First Street.

Erwin asks if it would be possible to use this money to find a replacement for the Space Whale.

Hill replies that is a possibility, but she is also asking City Council for an additional \$24,000 a year to be put towards public art on the City Plaza as a tentative idea. She would like the lease to be covered.

Honig-Bear asks if there are any modifications the Commission wants to make at this point.

Doug Erwin makes a motion to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

[City Council Liaison Duerr left at 6:06 p.m.]

8. Project/Special Reports Update

a. Community Engagement Committee

- i. Discussion and possible approval of the KUNR RCC contract of \$2,500 for on-air messages

Honig-Bear summarizes. This is something that has been done before and unless there is a great deal of confusion about the guidelines Honig-Bear will accept a motion.

Berner clarifies that some can be used to get the word out about Art Belongs Here and is not limited to sponsoring the Arts Calendar.

Hill states there is an option to move the schedule around and put in different messages.

Erwin states he does not understand the idea of promoting the Arts and Culture Commission directly and not just events.

Honig-Bear replies what they are doing is promoting the arts events/the arts calendar. They would be buying 107 messages and perhaps the Commission should forward this to the Community Engage Commission to look over and decided on what message should be sent out.

Erwin states that they should put together a comprehensive marketing strategy, focusing on comprehensive instead of one-offs. To think about all different means with social media ect.

Bryce Chisholm moves to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor, 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

b. Grants Committee

- i. Discussion and possible approval of the 2019 Grants Committee members form the following list of applicants in alphabetical order: YeVonne Allen, Grace Davis, James Dodge, Elizabeth Genasci, Nathan Mix, Bill Newman, Melanie Rudnick, Shoshana Zeldner

Berner states that they have three appointed commissioners that have already been appointed, Geralda Miller, Sharon Honig-Bear and Doug Erwin.

Honig-Bear asks for a number from the Commission, stating they cannot accept just two members.

Oliverio suggests a number of four members.

Miller recommends Melanie Rudnick, having worked with her before. Miller also recommends YeVonne Allen.

Honig-Bear expresses conflict of interest concerns around Grace Davis and Elizabeth Genasci because of their associations with organizations who apply for grants.

Members chosen are: YeVonne Allen, Nathan Mix, Melanie Rudnick and Shoshana Zeldner.

Bryce Chisholm moves to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor, 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent

c. Public Art Committee Update

- i. Discussion and possible approval of the Public Art Committee's recommendation of the purchase of the following four sculptures for Bicentennial Park: Rhinoman by Carolyn Guerra, Daring Young Man on the Trapeze by Ric Blackerby, Circles by Chris J. Rench, and Iron Horse by Pierre Riche in an amount not to exceed \$64,900.

Berner summarizes. The Public Art Committee, after a long discussion, decided on four sculptures to recommend for purchase. There are six pedestals but there was the thought that they should buy the sculptures they wanted the most, instead of trying to fit everything into the budget and fill all the pedestals. There can be another call to fill the other spaces.

There was \$80,000 available that was encumbered; the extra money will go towards installation.

Erwin asks if this motion will be purchasing permanent sculpture, and if all the pedestals will be occupied.

Berner replies that yes the motion will be to purchase the four pieces, and there will be two open spots.

Chisholm asks if some of the pieces might stay there.

Berner replies that the attorneys have said that we cannot keep unpurchased art on the pedestals.

Honig-Bear states that one of the artists, Eileen Gay, was willing to leave her piece as a place holder until a replacement could be found, but was advised against doing so by city attorneys. The artwork cannot be leased.

There is a recommendation from the Public Art Committee to purchase the four sculptures, leaving a balance that could be used towards installation/de-installation. Honig-Bear is looking for a motion.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

- ii. Discussion and update on City of Reno McKinley East & West Galleries.

Berner states that there is nothing to approve, but the Public Art Committee has approved the preliminary outline for the McKinley Galleries for the next season. They have decided to work with educational institutions and community groups within the City to curate the space.

The Drakulich Foundation is installing work at the beginning of the year. During Youth Art Month (March) the Sierra Foundation will have teaching artists. April will have the TMCC art club with two different options. One is to have their students work with high school students to curate art work/art show or to work with the TMCC high school students to create artwork for the galleries.

9. Discussion and possible approval of a diversity, equity and inclusion training for arts organizations to assist with new grants initiatives and RACC goals in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Hill states the consulting fee is to move the RACC forward with its goals. It goes towards not only training in January, but also for the RACC to choose a few select non-profits who are willing to do the work, and work with them over the coming year.

Berner adds that there is the idea to add an actual case study with these, so the RACC can track its successes and show the progress.

Nettie Oliverio motions to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

10. Discussion and possible approval of a City Artist program in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

Honig-Bear states there are two proposals. One for an artist-in-residency program and the second a city artist program.

Berner asks to look at the City artist program first. It is similar to the poet laureate, with a single year appointment. They would get a stipend of \$2,000 for the year, with the duties that are included. Part of that would be to help curate the Metro Gallery space and exhibit their own work.

There is currently \$10,000 encumbered for an artist in residency.

Chisholm recommends giving the artist enough time to fit everything in their schedule.

Honig-Bear states that she would like to see some sort of process to be referred to the Public Art Committee.

Geralda Miller makes a motion to approve the City Artist Program in the amount not to exceed \$4,000 with the amendment which includes an explanation of how a potential piece would be purchased and a timeline for the City Artist and inclusion of other options of the community engagement requirements, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

11. Discussion and possible approval of an Artist in Residence program in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Hill states they revised what they originally gave to the Commission and came up with how to fit in the \$10,000 budget. It is a three-month, in one city department, \$6,000 and an opportunity to do a show/project in Metro, and they are looking at the Sustainability Department in the first year.

Berner adds that the position is open to any artist including performance art, writing, etc.

Erik Fong motions to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.

[Doug Erwin leaves at 6:55 p.m. Quorum is lost.]

12. Discussion on role of the RACC in private projects and development.

13. Discussion and possible approval of holiday lights/light festival for 2019.

14. Updates on ongoing projects

a. Reno MoMo

Berner states it was a brief meeting as not many people showed up, but there has been movement on venues for some of the projects. It will launch in April.

b. RACC presentation to Council

Sharon Honig-Bear and Geralda Miller have worked extensively on the presentation.

c. Art Belongs Here: Neighborhood Public Art Grants

Berner states that under the Grants tab on the RenoCulture.com page all the information is there, just not the application. Berner asks that the Commission get the word out.

15. Announcements not anticipated at notice date

16. Set date, time and agenda for the next Special and Regular meetings and future RACC meetings

17. General Public Comment

18. Adjournment