



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission's  
Public Art Committee Minutes**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Place: McKinley Arts and Culture Boardroom  
925 Riverside Drive, Reno, NV 89503**

<b>Committee Members</b>
Nettie Oliverio, Chair
Dave Aiazzi
Eric Brooks
Bryce Chisholm
Mahsan Ghazianzad
Ahren Hertel
Matthew McIver
Geralda Miller
Carola Nan Roach
Tamara Scronce
Vacant

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**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Called to order by: Nettie Oliverio at 11:00 am

Present: Nettie Oliverio, Chair, Dave Aiazzi (arrived at 11:05), Eric Brooks, Bryce Chisholm, Mahsan Ghazianzad (arrived at 11:01am), Ahren Hertel, Matthew McIver, Geralda Miller.

Absent: Carola Nan Roach, Tamara Scronce.

Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator.

**2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters**

None

**3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

February 11, 2019.

Bryce Chisholm motions to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

March 18, 2019.

Geralda Miller motions to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

**5. Financial Report and Budget Update**

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

Berner summarizes.

Council Liaison Duerr has given some advice concerning the budget. There have been some changes to make the format a little more understandable.

The Wells Avenue Sculpture repair has been taken out of the budget, because it is being discussed today and will potentially be put back in.

The Maintenance Fund is something that is separate. It is not from the room tax account, but a ReTRAC bond project that is in a different account.

Aiazzi asks if maintenance is used for those art projects, for ReTRAC and the Events Center.

Berner replies they were told they can use it for any maintenance. There is other money that can be used for ReTRAC only maintenance.

Part of their policy states that they should set aside a percentage of funds for maintenance. Berner will look into it and bring it back on a future meeting.

Eric Brooks makes a motion to accept the FY2018/19 budget, seconded by Matthew McIver. All in favor 8, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

**6. Discussion and possible approval of repairs on the Wells Avenue sculptures “Community” and “Independence” by Benjamin Victor in an amount not to exceed \$20,307.76**

Berner summarizes.

The Wells Avenue sculpture on the south end was hit by a drunk driver. Again.

The insurance was finally received and has been attached to the agenda. It is fixed at \$20,000 because that is the limit on the insurance.

They are receiving \$11,692.24

The sculpture that was hit is titled ‘Community’. The artist has been contacted and his quote is \$25,000. \$10,000 of that is for transport and re-install. It will be taken to a foundry in the Bay Area where he is located, and he will create a new stone to match the original, along with some metal work.

He would like to redo the other sculpture as well to match. There is no charge for de-install/install and transport for it, if they do it at the same time as the other one. The \$10,000 would be for both sculptures.

Aiazzi asks if the City attorney is not going after the driver for the rest of the money.

Berner replies no. The process is laborious and usually you don’t get anything out of it.

Aiazzi asks isn’t there an ordinance that art is supposed to be maintained by the body that it’s in (an example being if it is in a park, Parks & Rec should be responsible, etc.)?

Berner replies that that refers to routine maintenance and she isn't sure if it qualifies for routine maintenance.

Aiazzi asks if she could find out, instead of speculate. There was nothing that stated it was one or the other; just maintenance.

Aiazzi states they should push the ordinance if they are going to get anywhere.

Chisholm states he would like to know how much they spent originally.

Miller replies \$75,000

Oliverio states that if they waited to have Dave Aiazzi's questions answered, what does it do to the timeline with working with the artist?

Berner replies it would be fine, but she doesn't know if they will get any satisfactory answers. She will explore the options/speak to the attorneys.

Aiazzi states that this fits into a bigger discussion; pushing this might force them to rewrite the ordinances, and get the Public Works people on their side concerning rewriting ordinances.

Berner replies that this body and the Commission can propose some language.

Mclver asks what can they do for a preventative measure to keep this from happening again?

Berner replies they can do something like a large bollard, or large boulder. There will be expenses though.

Eileen Gay comments. Part of the problem of placing things around the perimeter of a roundabout, is the roundabout is there to slow down traffic, but also is not supposed to be impede fire trucks, etc. It is better to elevate the platform in the center.

Honig-Bear asks is there an inventory of the art with what the replacement art would cost?

Berner replies yes; they have to submit that every year.

Oliverio asks the Committee if the subject should be tabled until more information can be found out.

Brooks suggests sending Public Works an invoice.

Aiazzi approves of the idea; send them the invoice and ask them to fix it. Is it a good relationship when they give nothing?

Berner replies she understands where Aiazzi is coming from, but it is likely Public Works will not pay and it will be damaging to the relationship that the department has with A&C. She will look at options.

Miller adds how do they know how Public Works will react; have they ever tried billing them?

Berner replies that she has not tried billing them because she would like to maintain a good relationship with Public Works. They often help out with projects.

Aiazzi repeats that they should send them the invoice; if they refuse ask 'why not'?

Oliverio asks that Megan Berner look into the subject. The Committee stands ready to support Berner.

- 7. Discussion and possible approval of one representative from the Public Art Committee to serve on the Art Belongs Here Grants Committee from the list of the following candidates in alphabetical order: Dave Aiazzi, Eric Brooks, Bryce Chisholm, Mahsan Ghazianzad, Ahren Hertel, Matthew Mclver, Geralda Miller, Nettie Oliverio, Carola Nan Roach, Tamara Scronce.**

Eric Brooks volunteers.

Matthew Mclver makes a motion, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

- 8. Discussion and possible approval of deaccession of "America Goes Bowling" statue currently on display in the Nation Bowling Stadium and relocation of Eileen Gay's piece "Pin Setting".**

Berner summarizes.

This is a recent development and there may be another meeting to discuss it further.

The bowling stadium is doing a remodel.

There is no record of the sculpture. It is believed it was a donated piece.

Aiazzi states that it was done by the architect's wife.

Berner states the RSCVA would like to donate the piece to the international bowling museum in Arlington, Texas.

They feel the nostalgic, cartoony look does not fit into the look they want in the remodel.

Oliverio adds some historic perspective on Eileen Gay's piece 'Pin Setting'. The architectural committee for the bowling stadium wanted to have a sculpture done that was designed by an architect, not an artist.

The cost would have been \$50,000

The public art ordinance stated that art going in had to be done by an artist. Eileen Gay proposed her piece and was chosen.

Brooks asks Eileen Gay how she feels about the process.

Gay replies she thinks it's a great idea, although moving it does freak her out.

Berner states she would like some information as she would like to go through the deaccession process; is it a process they even need to go through if it was done by the RSCVA when the building was made?

Aiazzi states that the City of Reno owns the building, and the sculpture.

Honig-Bear states that she wonders if they can get a small compensation for the reinstall, at the very least.

Aiazzi asks if the remodel work falls under the 2%. It is something that needs to be looked into.

Is it a project that has to be done on that site? It states 2% has to go to arts, not where that project is. This is something else that must be cleared up.

Oliverio states that they went through a similar thought process when the south most fire station was being built; the judgment was yes, it needed to be onsite.

Berner states that concerning the bowling stadium; it doesn't have to be indoors, it could be outside around the building.

Aiazzi states that if they kept the piece, where would they put it?

Honig-Bear suggests the airport.

Chisholm states that they have been buying sculpture for a great deal of money; why are they giving this piece away?

Honig-Bear suggests exploring more options with the sculpture.

Berner states she will bring it back for recommendation.

Dave Aiazzi makes a motion to recommend moving 'Pin 7' to this location, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

## **9. Discussion and possible approval of a Public Art Maintenance Fund and plan.**

Berner summarizes. She is bringing this back to discussion as there was no final decision and there are a lot of maintenance projects coming up.

Stated in the ordinance there is a certain percentage that should be set aside for maintenance that has not been followed in the past.

There is money in the account, but it has not been earmarked for maintenance.

Honig-Bear asks how it is decided which department is responsible for what maintenance?

Berner states that she feels as though routine maintenance includes things like waxing, graffiti removal ect.

Aiazzi states that over-seeing is not the same as paying for.

Brooks asks if the \$10,000 would be encumbered, at least until more is put into it.

Berner replies that the idea is that it would be encumbered and set aside as a line item in the budget.

Aiazzi states that some pieces may differ than others; some may take more maintenance, while others take hardly any.

Berner replies that this was in the previous discussion; it is difficult to assess the exact amount of maintenance a piece may take. There are no obvious answers; it is up to the Committee to discuss.

Aiazzi asks if there is a plan for how the pieces are maintained.

Berner responds yes; the Public Art Tech has been compiling that information. There is now a maintenance schedule.

When the Reno Star had to be repainted, Public Works helped with it. Perhaps those costs are something that those departments could cover. Another example is within the parks there are pieces that cannot be reached; we are not allowed to get up on the cherry picker equipment, but Public Works or Parks can. They can help with that portion and not charge us.

Aiazzi states they can put the \$15,490 in the fund to start with, and state that is what it is for.

Miller asks if they have an estimated cost for maintenance of pieces.

Berner replies no, she doesn't feel as though the Public Art Techs are capable of making an estimate of each piece.

Aiazzi agrees with Geralda Miller; they should get a record of what it costs for each piece to be maintained.

Berner replies the way to do that is to hire a professional conservator to look at the collection.

Miller states that it appears that in order to have a really plausible maintenance survey, they should have credible person evaluate the collection every three years, and this should be reflected in the budget.

The first step seems to be finding out an estimated cost to afford the maintenance so they can have an idea what to include in the budget.

Aiazzi adds they also need to find out how much it will cost to hire someone to do an assessment.

Berner states that they can use part of the money to hire a conservator as it relates to maintenance.

Aiazzi states he is hesitant to set aside money until they make clear who is responsible for what.

Hertel states the Art Techs could record over time what pieces need what maintenance, instead of hiring a conservator every three years.

Eileen Gay comments. Is there a way to contact the artists individually to get a quote on what it would cost to maintain their pieces?

Berner replies she could get that information, however a lot of artists don't really give any thought towards maintenance.

Oliverio states that the subject is tabled for the time being and will be revisited at a later time.

## **10. Update on ongoing projects.**

Berner summarizes.

Center & Lake Streets have new artwork from the UNR photography class and printmaking classes.

It was also under-budget; about \$650 vs \$2,500

The timeline for install will be changed to the end of spring semester; install during the winter is just too difficult.

Aiazzi states concerning the Midtown project RTC has doubled their offer to \$120,000 for bike racks/benches. Whether or not that can be used for something else later will be discussed.

City Council decided to take the money meant for installing a ground level bathroom and suggested they spend half of it on the Midtown project. \$150,000 may go into that budget. The Council may also set up a committee to decide where the art goes, and that committee will not be the Reno Arts & Culture Committee/Commission. The process is still in discussion.

Berner adds it was her understanding that some of the money might also be used for lighting in trees. If there is more information before the next meeting, it can be agendized.

Aiazzi states that Burning Man is looking at anti-terrorism methods – essentially turning into a TSA style check point.

Miller states she has an update concerning her discussions with the program for Burning Man/2019 art and she is looking at pieces to replace Space Whale. She will know next month what pieces they can consider for placement directly from the Playa to Reno.

Oliverio states that the Doral Academy is pleased with the reception for their exhibition at McKinley.

Berner states she will bring in flyers for the gallery spaces in the future.

Bicentennial is on track for May/June.

#### **11. Announcements not anticipated at notice date.**

Chisholm states that there is a meeting on Thursday with Neoma Jardon concerning the holiday decorations.

#### **12. Set date, time and agenda for the next meeting.**

April 15<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled meeting. The first round of Midtown will be looked at.

The call for qualifications ends April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The signal box call is on the agenda as they are due April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Miller asks about the City Artist.

Berner replies that will also be on the agenda.

Aiazzi asks about the poet laureate.

Berner replies Pan Pantoja has been chosen.

#### **13. General Public Comment.**

Eileen Gay remarks that the Committee is awesome.

Sharon Honig-Bear thanks Megan Berner for all her hard work; there has been great change since she has come onto the job.

#### **14. Adjournment.**

Geralda Miller makes a motion, seconded by Bryce Chisholm.