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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Monday, October 25, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Peter Barton

Vice Chairperson Karen Abowd

Commissioner Jed Block Commissioner Delsye Mills Commissioner James Shirk Commissioner Molly Walt

**STAFF:** Lee Plemel, Planning Director

Tamar Warren, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the Commission's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk's Office. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

- **A. CALL TO ORDER** (5:32:53) Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., and recognized Mr. Plemel, representing City Staff.
- **B. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** (5:33:10) Roll was called and a quorum was present. Commissioner Scott was absent as excused.
- C. ACTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:34:07) Chairperson Barton entertained a motion. Vice Chairperson Abowd stated that due to grant dictates and lease finalization, breaking ground for the Greenhouse Project would occur on the following month, and not in July, as the minutes stated. Chairperson Barton requested a correction in agenda item HC, which states "the budget the Commission has been asked to build", and replacing it with "the budget the Department has been asked to build". The minutes have been updated to reflect the above corrections. Commissioner Walt moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting as corrected. Vice Chairperson Abowd seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.
- **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** (5:35:55) None.
- **E. DISCLOSURES** (5:36:05) None.
- F. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA (5:36:18) None.
- G. NON ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSION AND UPDATE

A. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF STAFF'S FIRST DRAFT OF A "CARSON CITY'S CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY," A BLUEPRINT TO LEVERAGE THE COMMUNITY'S CREATIVE TALENT AND CULTURAL ASSETS TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMMUNITY PROSPERITY. (5:36:32) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and explained that he had met with Mr. McCarthy twice regarding the strategic plan, with the intention of providing a draft for the Commission to review. He hoped that the plan would be discussed in the December meeting, implemented in January, and be recognized by the City for the next fiscal year's budget. However, Chairperson Barton believed the plan still needed significant editing, which he would do along with Mr. McCarthy. He stated that the plan would get to the Commissioners electronically, no later than mid-November, to be discussed in the December Commission meeting.

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B. UPDATE ON OCTOBER 19, 2010 ART AND CULTURE COALITION'S CANDIDATE FORUM. (5:39:01) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item, and stated that Board of Supervisors candidates for Ward 1 and Ward 3, and three of the four candidates for school board trustee were present. He mentioned that the questions from the 40 or 45-member audience revealed some new information about the candidates and their positions on arts and culture. He hoped that this would become a tradition before every election, as it was quite beneficial. Commissioner Walt said that she was in attendance, and felt "it went well". She thanked the candidates for being there, and stated that she would have liked to know how some of the candidates would propose making changes to things they did not believe were getting done. She believed that Commissioner Abowd "did a phenomenal job", as she offered solutions to things being discussed. She had wished to find out how we, as a community, could come up with solutions, in anticipation of budget cuts. Commissioner Block stated that he had attended the forum as well, and that afterwards, he was able to make a decision between two candidates. He wished to see the freshman legislators take a far-sighted approach, when it came to arts and culture, by realizing, for example, that for every dollar going into the museum system, six dollars would come back into

(5:47:30) – Chairperson Barton acknowledged Mr. John Shelton, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Brewery Arts Center (BAC), and invited him to speak. Mr. Shelton shared his background and qualifications with the Commission, and offered his assistance. In response to a question, he stated that the BAC would be selling tickets to the Nutcracker, put on by the Pinkerton Ballet Theatre. Chairperson Barton congratulated Mr. Shelton, and informed him that the Commission would lean on him for assistance in finalizing its strategic plan.

the private sector.

- **H. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.** (5:50:58) Chairperson Barton reminded the Commissioners to calendar the recently-published, 2011 meeting dates.
- **A. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS.** (5:51:29) Chairperson Barten introduced the item. Vice Chairperson Abowd updated the Commission on the Greenhouse Project. She stated that they had met with the Carson City School District, and that the lease would be finalized the following Monday. She said she was relieved that they would not have to pay for the first three years of the lease, because of all the improvements made to the property. Vice Chairperson Abowd also informed the Commission, that they had received a Recreational Trails Grant for \$200,000, and that with donor matches and grants, the total funds raised were over \$300,000. She also asked Chairperson Barton whether the volunteer base at the museum could be increased, in order to extend hours, and not appear to the state as a negative cash flow. Chairperson Barton acknowledged that the volunteers did play a major role, and cited the Railroad Museum as example with its 800 volunteers, 125 of which, he said, were "quite active". He believed that a number of options, including being more reliant on volunteers, were being considered.
- (5:54:43) Commissioner Walt requested a status update on the workshop with the Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition. Chairperson Barton suggested getting the Commission's strategic plan in order first, and wondered if the Coalition could help with that process. He believed that a special meeting, for the workshop, should be put on the calendar, prior to the March meeting.
- (5:56:47) Chairperson Barton alerted the Commission that "the initial budget proposal for the State's budget for the next two fiscal years, takes another swing at Cultural Affairs and its four divisions". He went on to say that the State Office of Historic Preservation could be lost, making Nevada the only state without such office. He added that the loss of the Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant Fund Program caused them to fall below certain federal match requirements, and could go away. Chairperson Barton stated that Division of Museums and History, had experienced a 48.5% cut in State General Fund revenues since 2009. To cut another 20%, he added, could not be done without the closure of museums. He stated that the loss was not just for that fabric in the community, but that the businesses in the community suffered as well.
- (6:03:47) Mr. Charlie Abowd, who identified himself as a citizen and co-owner of Adel's Restaurant, addressed the Commission. Mr. Abowd expressed concern about the proposed State Budget and its effects on the texture of Carson City. He agreed with Chairperson Barton, that the draw to Carson City is its history, but wondered about spending \$30+

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Million on a railroad, while watching the State close its Railroad Museum, and cutting back the hours of the State Museum. He believed that as the largest employer, the State has been laying-off citizens of the City, reducing the opportunity of the visitors to spend their dollars, and generating sales tax revenue. Mr. Abowd suggested a conversation between the Board of Supervisors and the Nevada Commissions on Economic Development and Tourism, as a proactive measure to save jobs and to revitalize the tourism industry. Chairperson Barton thanked Mr. Abowd, and stated that the City Manager, Mr. Werner, was also concerned about the museum's closure. Mr. Block urged the members of the community to become members of the museums and art organizations, and to give back as much, or as little, as they could.

(6:10:33) – Chairperson Barton distributed the Nevada Museums Association Heritage Needs Assessment Survey, conducted in the summer. He called it informative, and showed how all museums in Nevada contributed to the fabric of the State.

- **B. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 21, 2010.** (6:11:12) Chairperson Barton introduced the item, and explained that a considerable amount of the next meeting's time would be devoted to discussing the Strategic Plan. Vice Chairperson Abowd said she would like to update the Commission on the Greenhouse Project as well.
- I. ADJOURNMENT (6:11:56) Vice Chairperson Abowd moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Block, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

The minutes of the December, 2010.	October 25, 2	2010 meeting of th	e Carson Cit	y Cultural	Commission	are so	approved	this 21s	t day of

Peter Barton, Chairperson