

**CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of December 20, 2011**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Peter Barton  
Commissioner Karen Abowd  
Commissioner Delsye Mills  
Commissioner Eugene Paslov  
Commissioner Jeffrey Scott  
Commissioner James Shirk

**STAFF:** Lee Plemel, Planning Director  
Joe McCarthy, Cultural Commission Volunteer Staff  
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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (5:32:37)** –Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL (5:32:45)** – Roll was called and a quorum was present.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (5:33:25)** – Chairperson Barton entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.
4. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2011. (5:33:33)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. **Commissioner Paslov moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Abowd seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**
5. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ADOPTION OF AGENDA. (5:34:02)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. **Commissioner Mills moved to adopt the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Motion Carried 6-0.**
6. **AGENDA ITEMS**

**6-1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO INCORPORATION OF PUBLIC ART (INCLUDING A POSSIBLE REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE) IN PUBLIC PROJECTS IN CARSON CITY. (5:34:27)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Mr. McCarthy explained that Chairperson Barton, Commissioner Abowd and he had met with Larry Werner, City Manager, regarding the possible development of an ordinance allowing a percentage for a public arts program. Mr. McCarthy was pleased that they had received guidance to propose such a program to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), and to pursue the appropriate public process. Chairperson Barton noted that they had received a letter from Mr. Werner, incorporated into the record, asking the Commission for steps to create a public process to develop the policies and procedures to form the ordinance, to be considered by the BOS. Mr. McCarthy outlined his research of communities that had public arts programs. He suggested appointing a blue ribbon steering committee comprising citizens, artists, elected and appointed officials, to act as advisors to the Cultural Commission and the BOS. Mr. McCarthy also gave several examples of public art available by the Capital City Arts Initiative. Chairperson Barton recommended chartering the steering committee by the March meeting, to gather information and recommendations by September. Commissioner Scott noted that he had several drafts for policies and procedures, advising to keep the steering committee small and not bureaucratic, but capable of disseminating information. He suggested sending it to the Commissioners via e-mail. Chairperson Barton cautioned Commissioners against replying

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to everyone, in order to comply with the Open Meeting Law. Commissioner Paslov called the idea “terrific” and offered to help. He also suggested making contact with high school students to see if their art would be appropriate for display. He also gave the example of a “significant grant” from Senator Reid’s office for landscaping and potential displays of art along the new freeway, and suggested exploring available funding. Commissioner Scott noted that discovering and cataloging existing art should be a program component as well. Commissioner Shirk received confirmation that no City ordinance was currently in place for public art, and believed that the freeway art was funded by the State. He also suggested having the Nevada Arts Council or this Commission become the initial steering committee, and Chairperson Barton clarified that the implementation phase would need art experts beyond this Commission. Commissioner Abowd proposed having the steering committee become the group that makes the recommendations, and this Commission the one that makes the final decisions. She also suggested dedicating a percentage of the savings, created by the solar energy used in schools, to art education and public art. Mr. McCarthy suggested having the ordinance passed first, then using some of the funds to contract public art professionals to set up the program. He also recommended utilizing the expertise of other committees and staffs. Commissioner Paslov offered to meet with the Department of Transportation Director regarding Federal or State funding and report back in the next meeting. Commissioner Abowd offered to inquire about dedicating a portion of solar savings to public art. Commissioner Scott reminded the Commission of his “The Wild Horses of Carson City” project, noting that he had discovered makers of fiberglass animals for public projects and suggested exploring that project in parallel.

**6-2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE ROLE OF THE CULTURAL COMMISSION. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE THE COMMISSION BECOMING RECIPIENT OF A “BLOCK” GRANT FROM THE CITY, MANAGING A RE-GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, REVIEWING APPLICATIONS AND MAKING SUB-GRANT AWARDS.**

(6:05:26) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and referred to the second paragraph in Mr. Werner’s letter, which referred to a funding stream, and invited Mr. McCarthy to present his proposal. Mr. McCarthy clarified that the document he had shared with Chairperson Barton was still in draft form, and once ready, he would present it to the Commission. He also discussed the economic advantages of arts programs in many communities, and gave the example of “sin taxes” that generate revenues for re-granting and supporting community arts programs. He suggested this Commission consider expanding its role by providing stringent rules and guidelines to manage the re-granting process. Commissioner Abowd mentioned the escalation of property values in communities with thriving art programs, and wished to explore the possibility of a minor increase to property taxes in order to fund such a program. Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission stay engaged with the City Manager. Mr. Plemel agreed to Mr. McCarthy’s suggestion.

**6-3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF A PROCESS TO ENLIST THE COMMUNITY IN DEVELOPING DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR THE PERMANENT SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL AT MILLS PARK.**

(6:16:00) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Shirk gave background and noted that the Department of Parks and Recreation had selected a permanent location for the World Trade Center Memorial. He also noted that the five-member committee that had championed the memorial wished to engage the community in finalizing the design. Commissioner Shirk wished to engage the local artist community, through the Cultural Commission, to house the steel I-beam in “its permanent, long-term resting place”. He also stated that community input was essential, prior to receiving approval from the BOS. Commissioner Shirk shared a photograph of the current memorial, calling it a “national treasure” and stating that the memorial, in its current state, “was not just enough”. In response to Chairperson Barton’s question, Commissioner Shirk explained that an article would be published in the Nevada Appeal, adding that he had begun dialogue at the college and high school levels. He also stated that he was willing to get the information out. Commissioner Abowd suggested speaking to the welding departments at both institutions as well. Mr. Plemel explained that the City had processes for soliciting public input, and could support “getting the message out”. In response to Commissioner Scott’s question, Commissioner Shirk explained that the original design of the memorial was an all-volunteer effort, and he did not see an issue with the redesign. Discussion ensued on considering local artists first and going regional in the event of not receiving an appropriate design. Commissioner Shirk assured that an artist’s rendering would be verified by a structural engineer as part of the process. He also noted that he had received “how to set up a monument” criteria from the State, which he would incorporate with his research and send to the Commission members. Commissioner Shirk added that the

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City would own the monument. It was agreed to move forward and set deadlines for decision making and agendaizing for the March meeting. Mr. Plemel received confirmation that the March meeting agenda would include the review of concepts, and reminded Commissioners that they should only send comments to the chair.

**7. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**A. UPDATE ON CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. (6:33:55) –** Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Paslov distributed a document, incorporated into the record, updating the Commission on the status of the Performing Arts Charter High School (PACHS). He explained that the original proposal had been rejected, noting “I have a big job to get people to better understand”. Commissioner Paslov added that he has put together a team of over 20 people, who have agreed that the project is “too important to drop”, and would resubmit to meet the expectations of the Department of Education. He also noted that Western Nevada College was “very interested in doing this”. Commissioner Paslov believed that this project was critical to the community and to the arts as an economic development tool. Chairperson Barton applauded Commissioner Paslov for his persistence.

**B. UPDATE ON THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT AND THE FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM. (6:39:36) –** Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd announced the successful ribbon-cutting of the Greenhouse, and noted the enthusiasm of the special needs students, who had planted 1,500 lettuce seeds in 45 minutes. Commissioner Abowd thanked the Arts and Culture Commission, City Staff, the volunteers, and the BOS for their support, adding that they would continue to raise funds “to keep it going”. Commissioner Abowd also presented the Commission with a Certificate of Commendation, incorporated into the record, from Senator Harry Reid.

**C. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 20, 2011. (6:42:31) –** Chairperson Barton introduced the item and noted the discussion of concepts for the permanent 911 memorial. He stated that Commissioner Block’s resignation had created a vacancy on this Commission in addition to two Citizen at Large terms also expiring, and that the deadline for applications was December 30, 2011. He added that in the March meeting, a Chair and Vice Chair would be elected. Commissioner Shirk was asked to include a mission statement and design parameters as part of the design application process. Mr. McCarthy suggested that a report from the Carson City Art and Culture Coalition become part of a permanent agenda.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS (6:47:22) –** Chairperson Barton entertained public comments. Mr. McCarthy explained that the Coalition had met in November and another meeting was scheduled for January, and that they were working on “enticing more of the art and culture community to show up”. He believed the meeting would take place on the third Thursday in January, noting “we’ll get the word out”, regarding the time. Mr. McCarthy also highlighted the successful events that had taken place in the arts community.

**9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ACTION TO ADJOURN (6:51:49) –** Chairperson Barton entertained a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Paslov moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.**

The minutes of the December 20, 2011 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

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Peter Barton, Chairperson