

**CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of March 15, 2011**  
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Karen Abowd  
Commissioner Jed Block  
Commissioner Delsye Mills  
Commissioner Eugene Paslov  
Commissioner Jeffrey Scott

**STAFF:** Lee Plemel, Planning Director  
Joe McCarthy, Business Development 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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (5:31:17) – Vice Chairperson Abowd called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** (5:31:36) – Roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairperson Barton was absent. Vice Chairperson Abowd congratulated Commissioner Scott on his reappointment, and welcomed Dr. Eugene Paslov to the Commission.
3. **ACTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (5:32:17) – **Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION** (5:32:55) – None.
6. **SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (ACTION)** (5:33:42) – Vice Chairperson Abowd introduced the item and reminded the Commission that because she was a member of the Board of Supervisors now, she could no longer hold the position of Vice Chair. Mr. McCarthy explained that Chairperson Barton had been busy with legislative issues concerning museums; however, in conversation with him, Mr. McCarthy had discovered that he would consider serving as Chairperson again. **Member Block moved to nominate Chairperson Barton to continue as Chair. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Vice Chairperson Abowd solicited nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Member Block explained that he “would put my name in the ring in the event that our chair is not at the meeting”. **Commissioner Mills moved to nominate Commissioner Block for the position of Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carried 5-0.**
7. **NON ACTION ITEMS – DISCUSSION AND UPDATE**
  - A. **CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A “CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN.”** (5:36:46) – Vice Chairperson Abowd introduced the item and invited Mr. McCarthy to elaborate. Mr. McCarthy reminded the Commission of a draft he had distributed at the last meeting. He mentioned that Chairperson Barton had requested setting possible priorities in year one and year two. Mr. McCarthy stated that this was only a discussion item now and would later be brought up to the Commission for action. He gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting certain capacity-building priorities such as grant writing, IRS regulations for 501c organizations, etc. He stated that the Commission could have “a tremendous impact” on local arts organizations and can “help them do what they do, better”. He also suggested developing a strategy for legislative effort to support community arts programs. In response to a question, Mr. McCarthy explained that the Commission is an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), and should the BOS be inclined to dedicate funds in support, that would be “completely legitimate”. Discussion

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ensued over funding and fund-raising events. In response to Commissioner Mills' question, Mr. McCarthy explained that the Commission did not have a funding or a staffing source, and suggested going through the budget process for any funding at this beginning stage. A central ticketing, reservations, and assigned seating system was also discussed. Commissioner Block suggested adding an art enhancement fee for centralized ticketing, as a fund raiser. Commissioner Scott proposed holding a special meeting with the Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition "to chat about things and expose some issues". He believed that the Commission's role was long-term, while the Coalition dealt with immediate issues. Mr. McCarthy offered to set up the meeting, and suggested noticing and agendaing it. It was agreed to schedule the meeting at the end of May.

**B. UPDATE ON THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT AND THE FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM.**

(6:21:02) – Vice Chairperson Abowd updated the Commission on the project and said that the flowers were being grown at Nevada's Own Perennials. She expected to have the baskets hung on June 1, 2011. Vice Chairperson Abowd also pointed out that due to the added propane cost this year, they would have a yard sale at Adele's parking lot on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. She also stated that the Greenhouse was under construction and thanked Mark Lopiccolo for donating the labor, stating that they were "coming through" with funding and matching funds to "make it happen". Vice Chairperson Abowd announced that they had hired AmeriCorps volunteer Ray Saliga from Michigan Tech to spearhead the initial groundwork. She added that their 501c3 status had been finalized at the end of December. She stated that the first program to launch would be the planting of the follower baskets by special needs children. Mr. McCarthy congratulated Vice Chairperson Abowd for her ideas and execution.

**C. UPDATE ON STATUS OF STATE'S BUDGET AND POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.** (6:24:07) – Vice Chairperson Abowd stated that she had attended one of the budget hearings and viewed it as "an uphill climb", especially the merging of tourism and cultural affairs. Mr. McCarthy added that the budget had not been finalized, and that the State Historic Preservation Office was moving to Conservation and Natural Resources. He also pointed out that Library and Archives was moving to Administration, and praised Chairperson Barton as "one of the best administrators I've ever met", and believed that he would help "exit out of this legislative session not too bloody".

**D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 21, 2011.** (6:26:31) – Commissioner Paslov requested brief biographies of the Commission members. He also suggested highlighting Commission activities such as appointments and meeting schedules. Mr. McCarthy offered to work with executive staff to ensure the Commission receives more attention. Commissioner Paslov also announced that he was starting a charter school for performing arts in 2012. Commissioner Block applauded his efforts and announced that he was starting a county museum. Commissioner Mills, who represents the Carson City Convention and Visitors' Bureau (CCCVB), announced that the CCCVB had pledged \$70,000 towards softball tournaments in Carson City. She also updated the Commission on the upcoming Rendezvous and the V&T wine tasting events.

**8. ACTION TO ADJOURN** (6:39:00) – Vice Chairperson Abowd entertained a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Paslov moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

The minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2011.

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Peter Barton, Chairperson