

# CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of the Meeting of June 21, 2011

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Peter Barton  
Vice Chairperson Jed Block  
Commissioner Karen Abowd  
Commissioner Delsye Mills  
Commissioner Eugene Paslov  
Commissioner James Shirk

**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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (5:30:53)** –Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:30:59)** – Roll was called and a quorum was present. Commissioner Scott was absent as excused.
3. **ACTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:31:28)** – **Commissioner Mills moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Paslov seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA. (5:32:01)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. No changes were requested to the agenda.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (5:32:23)** – None.
6. **REPORT AND POSSIBLE LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONER PASLOV FOR A CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. (5:32:55)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and gave background on the request from Commissioner Paslov. He also stated that he had written a letter of endorsement in May, at the request of Commissioner Paslov, since the application deadline “did not coincide with Commission meetings”. The letter is incorporated into the record. Commissioner Paslov gave background on the planned charter school, stating that it would “focus on career opportunities in the entertainment industry”. He anticipated over 200 students being recruited from Washoe, Storey, Lyon, Carson, and Douglas counties. He also estimated that the school would be open in fall 2012, and added that the application for the opening date was due to the State Board of Education on July 15, 2011. He stated that they were looking for classroom space and would be creative in their search. Commissioner Paslov indicated that the performance courses would be taught by professional performance artists and that he would work with the Department of Education to have them “properly endorsed”. He indicated that he was committed “to making this work”. In response to a question by Chairperson Barton, Commissioner Paslov explained that the Department of Education would review the application and respond in 30 days, after which, Commissioner Paslov would have 30 or 45 days to respond. **Commissioner Abowd moved to accept the letter of endorsement of the application by Commissioner Paslov for the Charter High School for the Performing Arts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mills. Motion Carried 6-0.**
7. **NON ACTION ITEMS – DISCUSSION AND UPDATE**
  - A. **UPDATE ON THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT AND THE FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM. (5:43:12)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd updated the Commission on the project and

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said that 52 flower baskets, sponsored by local persons and businesses, had been set up. She thanked the Greenhouse Garden Center, Hungry Mother Organics, Lopiccolo Construction, and all those who assisted her in transporting the baskets. She also stated that the baskets were being watered by someone on a part-time basis. Commissioner Abowd updated the Commission on the Greenhouse Project, stating that it was under construction, behind the tennis courts at Carson High School. She added that Mark Lopiccolo, the contractor, had donated his time to the project. Commissioner Abowd also announced that they received the grants they had applied for. She also indicated that the excavation had cost more than planned, and that a benefit concert, along with a silent auction, would take place on July 13, with Booker T. She looked for the concert to be a sell-out, reminding everyone that tickets could be obtained at <http://breweryarts.org>. In response to a question from Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Abowd noted that the concert tickets were \$52 for VIP seating and \$32 for general admission.

**B. UPDATE ON STATUS OF STATE BUDGET AS IT PERTAINS TO NV MUSEUMS AND NV ARTS COUNCIL FOR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2011.** (5:46:01) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and indicated that he wished a representative from Nevada Arts Council would have been present as he was not as familiar with their budget as the one for the museums. He indicated that a very important bill pertaining to the future of the Nevada Arts Council and the future of the museums had passed at 12:51 a.m. on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He updated the Commission on the Department of Cultural Affairs which had been dissolved. As for its Divisions, Chairperson Barton pointed out that the State Historic Preservation Office would be moved back to the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources; the Nevada State Library and Archives would consolidate within the Nevada Department of Administration; the Division of Museums and History and the Nevada Arts Council would migrate to the Nevada Commission on Tourism, a move Chairperson Barton considered positive, since the museums, a product of tourism, would be aligned with the people whose mission was to market them. He added that the Nevada Arts Council had lost another 10% of its budget, which would affect their grant programs. Chairperson Barton indicated that Governor Sandoval was supportive of the museums and had visited the Nevada State Museum at least four or five times in the first six months of his administration, and had held a Cabinet meeting there. He had also operated a steam locomotive at the Railroad Museum. Commissioner Abowd revealed that she had heard solar panels would be installed at the Railroad Museum as a result.

**C. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR CITY SUPPORT.** (5:51:59) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and commented that he was pleased to see Mr. Plemel and Joe McCarthy present. He then invited Mr. McCarthy to address the Commission, who announced that on July 1<sup>st</sup> he would take over as Executive Director (a three-quarter time position) of the Capital City Arts Initiative. Mr. McCarthy stated that he was looking forward to his new position and would be working with the Carson City Art and Culture Coalition, calling it “a quality of life driver for our community”. He also shared a memorandum addressed to the City Manager, offering his services as a volunteer, for at least three months, to the Commission and to the City at large. Mr. McCarthy stated that he would like to locate “independent philanthropic funding through grants or other means”, and offered to develop a directory of all the local arts groups, along with an integrated events calendar, and to help with the Commission’s long-term strategic plan. He added that if, during his volunteer period, he could prove himself to the community and the City, then he would pursue “a small professional services contract”. John Shelton, Executive Director of the Brewery Arts Center, stated that he had chaired the Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and indicated that they could not accomplish their goals without funding. He also believed that each major local arts agency had their own goals, but did not relate to those of other institutions. Mr. Shelton spoke of collaboration within the agencies, and the inclusion of art in the definition of Carson City’s emerging profile. He added that the Coalition wished for the key community players to “convene jointly and assess current services or roles of the community to better define how we will not only differentiate from the services we already provide, but to also seek out collaborative efforts and programming service functions and funding”. He then recommended that this dialogue become part of the Commission’s strategic process, and begin the discussions prior to the Commission’s September meeting. Chairperson Barton thanked Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Shelton. He also asked Mr. McCarthy “how do we best take advantage of you over the next 90 days?” Mr. McCarthy suggested pursuing Mr. Shelton’s suggestion of meeting prior to the September meeting. Chairperson Barton suggested “inviting everyone”. He also cautioned against violating open meeting laws. Commissioner Paslov proposed that Mr. McCarthy provide e-mail updates to the Commission and periodically touch base with the Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Abowd suggested that Mr. McCarthy advise them on how to take certain events, such as the Jazz Festival, to the next level.

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(6:17:17) – Chairperson Barton invited Commissioner Shirk to update the Commission on the World Trade Center I-beam acquisition. Commissioner Shirk explained that that he had proposed to obtain the commemorative I-beam through the Board of Supervisors' September 17, 2009 meeting. He added that as a result of the letters of recommendation by the Sheriff, the Fire Department, and Supervisor Aldean, and the assistance of Mayor Crowell, the I-beam would be delivered the following day, between 2 and 3 p.m. Commissioner Shirk indicated that the item would be temporarily stored at the Parks and Recreation facility until obtaining the design and the go-ahead to house the memorial on City property.

(6:20:06) – Chairperson Barton noted that Robin Hodgkin from the Nevada Arts Council had joined and he reopened the public comment portion of the agenda. Ms. Hodgkin noted that they had received an extra \$25,000, thanks to Assemblywoman Smith. However, she indicated that the Council's budget had been cut by 10%. She added that she retained the same amount for the Circuit Riders Grants as the previous year, and advised the Commission to apply before July 1 to receive funds by that date. Ms. Hodgkin also updated the Commission on the Americans for the Arts Conference, which she had attended in San Diego. She spoke of new resources and recounted a tour she had taken in San Diego, which depicted how lives were changed for the better in that community, and wished to share more "down the line".

**D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011.** (6:25:58) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and noted that Commissioner Scott wished to discuss the Public Art Program at the next meeting. He also indicated that they would hear from Mr. McCarthy, who explained that Mr. Werner, City Manager and Mr. Plemel had allowed for some space at the Business Resource Innovation Center (BRIC) to be used as a Community Corner, dedicated to art and culture, and operated by the Capital City Arts Initiative, working with the Foundation Center. Additional items such as the Greenhouse Project, the Performing Arts Charter High School, and the commemorative I-beam were also added to the agenda by Chairperson Barton.

**8. ACTION TO ADJOURN** (6:29:15) – Chairperson Barton entertained a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Abowd moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paslov. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

The minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

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Peter Barton, Chairperson