

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting of September 20, 2011
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., in 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 Jeffrey Scott
Commissioner James Shirk

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 (5:29:50)** –Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL (5:29:59)** – Roll was called and a quorum was present.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (5:30:21)** – Chairperson Barton entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

(5:31:25) – Chairperson Barton recognized the efforts of Commissioner Shirk for his initiative to create a World Trade Center memorial in the community. He also noted that he and several commissioners had attended the September 11, 2011 ceremony, calling it “quite moving and very well done”.

4. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2011. (5:31:46)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. **Commissioner Abowd moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Paslov seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**
5. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ADOPTION OF AGENDA. (5:32:42)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. **Vice Chairperson Block moved to adopt the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paslov. Motion Carried 7-0.**

6. **AGENDA ITEMS**

6-1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF LOCAL ARTS PROGRAM. (5:33:03) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Scott stated that he was reintroducing this agenda item which had presented to the first-appointed Cultural Commission. He wished “to bring everyone on the dais up to speed” and “get the ball rolling on a Public Arts Project”. Commissioner Scott delivered a PowerPoint presentation, calling it a primer on what public art is, how Carson City would benefit from it, and how to institute it. He conveyed the mission of the Commission and walked them through a definition and objectives of, and reasons to embrace public art. Commissioner Scott suggested getting started by taking the following steps: 1. Hiring a consulting team and reviewing the Downtown District Needs Survey; 2. Appointing a steering committee to provide direction; 3. Involving key personnel from the private and public sectors; 4. Reviewing and modifying the plan generated by the steering committee. He also proposed several funding opportunities and outlined the benefits of public art to Carson City. Commissioner Scott noted that Business Week had ranked Carson City third for its high concentration of art establishments. He believed that by developing the right plan and involving the right people, the results could be achievable, and offered to write a proposal on how this goal could be achieved. Commissioner Scott gave the example of Commissioner Shirk's efforts to bring the World Trade Center I-beam to Carson City as the first major piece of this

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proposal. Commissioner Abowd suggested having members of current commissions comprise the steering committee. Chairperson Barton suggested the Department of Parks and Recreation as key stakeholders. He also mentioned the highway art as an example of an already-working element. Vice Chairperson Block suggested bringing experts to educate and give background on public art, and gave an example of the City Center Project in Las Vegas. Commissioner Scott suggested launching the program with known icons such as the wild horses and gave examples of other cities that have used icons such as the pigs and cows depicted in his presentation. Commissioner Mills noted that she had seen the cow exhibits both in Chicago and New York, and had found them memorable. Chairperson Barton suggested having a conversation with the City Planner in Elko to learn about their newly-instituted public art program. Chairperson Barton entertained public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Commissioner Paslov moved to continue to endorse the public art project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Motion carried 7-0.**

7. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. (6:01:39) –

Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Paslov gave background on charter schools in general and described their operational structures. He also gave examples such as Silver State Charter School and the Carson Montessori Charter School, outlining their differences. Commissioner Paslov noted the “rich source of talent” available in the Northern Nevada area and believed they would be willing to instruct the students. He believed that his proposal included economic development opportunities, in addition to keeping the young talent in the area. Dr. Paslov indicated that in addition to the performing arts instruction, students would receive academic education via distance learning and licensed teachers available to help. He added that the school would be funded through the Distributive School Account (DSA). Chairperson Barton called this undertaking “an incredible commitment”. In response to Commissioner Scott’s question, Commissioner Paslov indicated that the academic instruction would entail on-line and “brick and mortar” learning environments. Chairperson Barton thanked Commissioner Paslov for his efforts.

B. UPDATE ON THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT AND THE FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM. (6:24:26) –

Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd updated the Commission on the Greenhouse Project noting the completion of the greenhouse structure, and adding that the solar panels would be installed the following week. Commissioner Abowd explained that the outdoor grounds had been cultivated because of the efforts of this year’s Carson City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class. An outdoor pathway and raised beds were also being added as a result of the recreational trails grant and the Greenhouse Action Group Volunteers, in addition to many volunteers who were donating their time, according to Commissioner Abowd. She also explained that the academic programs had begun in the classrooms, and by November 2011, they would be able to use the greenhouse facility. She added that the flower basket and the vegetable growing programs would be instituted next spring. Chairperson Barton noted the “phenomenal progress” and thanked Commissioner Abowd for her efforts.

C. UPDATE ON I-BEAM FROM WORLD TRADE CENTER. (6:27:56) –

Chairperson Barton introduced the item and congratulated Commissioner Shirk on behalf of the community. Commissioner Shirk reminded the Commission that “it wasn’t just me”, and expressed gratitude to the community for their endless assistance. He added that the current I-beam site was temporary, and he hoped the community would be involved in the final design and location of the memorial. He also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their “large role”. Chairperson Barton thanked Commissioner Shirk and encouraged everyone to “take a short walk” and visit the memorial.

D. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR CITY SUPPORT. (6:31:13) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and invited Joe McCarthy to elaborate. Mr. McCarthy referred to a strategic plan draft presented in January and noted the Commission’s support of several plans such as the Knowledge and Discovery Center, public arts programs, etc. He referred to the Capacity Building Plan for Arts and Culture Organizations, incorporated into the record and distributed to the Commission members. Mr. McCarthy explained that the Committee’s Capacity Building Plan should aim to stabilize finances and build operational capacity through expert assistance to boards, and for staff development. He also discussed the importance of community foundations, technological development, and on-going training, especially in grant writing and securing sponsorships. Mr. McCarthy noted that growing the membership base was necessary to grow

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donations. Chairperson Barton explained that he also had reached out to experts for assistance in financial sustainability reporting. Commissioner Abowd was concerned that “our cultural pie is shrinking” and considered partnering with the Brewery Arts Center, Western Nevada College, or the Carson City Art and Culture Coalition. Mr. McCarthy considered the Art and Culture Coalition a grassroots organization of all the artists and institutions in town, and believed that its members could take advantage of capacity building. He also believed that the Business Resource Innovation Center (BRIC) could serve as the “turnkey location” for capacity building, and hoped that the Community Foundation of Western Nevada could provide pro bono expertise.

(6:53:42) – Chairperson Barton acknowledged Vice Chairperson Block who announced that he had decided to “pursue my passion which is Carson City history” and had recently been appointed to the Carson City Historic Resources Commission; therefore resigning from this Commission. Chairperson Barton thanked Vice Chairperson Block for his “service and good council”, and he appreciated his dedication to Carson City. He also announced that on September 9, 2011, the Nevada Board of Museums and History had voted to approve the Carson City Historic District nomination, which had been accepted and the District would be placed on the National Registry. Chairperson Barton also disclosed that the McKean Motor Car, in the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, had been nominated as a National Historic Landmark.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 20, 2011. (6:57:11) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd wished to place the creation of a faculty and a funding mechanism on the next meeting’s agenda. Commissioner Scott wanted to discuss the funding of the Carson City Art and Culture Coalition, and to present a draft plan for the Carson City Public Arts Project proposal. Commissioner Mills inquired about the election of a Vice Chair, as a result of Vice Chairperson Block’s resignation. Chairperson Barton agreed to refer to the by-laws for an answer. He also announced that Warren Engine Company Number One would be holding a fund raiser on Friday, September 23, 2011, 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., at the Governor’s Mansion. Chairperson Barton noted that the new campus of Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas will be open to the public on October 28, 2011.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS (7:04:40) – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. Robin Hodgkin, Community Arts Development at the Nevada Arts Council, introduced herself and prefaced her comments as “they may not be very favorable”. She noted that there already were a number of resources in Northern Nevada that provided capacity building services, and believed that the Commission was “duplicating efforts and you do not have an audience that will embrace that”. Ms. Hodgkin explained that most of the members of the organizations were volunteers, and that the Nevada Arts Council provided professional development grants for individuals, training, and grants for organizations to work one-on-one with consultants, through the Circuit Riders Program. Chairperson Barton acknowledged the services available by the Nevada Arts Council, adding that the next phase of the dialogue would have included the Council. Ms. Hodgkin said that “in Carson City there has not been a community dialogue”. She gave the example of Southern Nevada Arts Consortia (SNAC), an all-volunteer arts organization, which used the Metro Arts Council of Southern Nevada (similar to the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City) as the convening entity which also housed all minutes on its website. She urged the Committee to ask for community feedback, and she felt that they were “stepping away from the overarching purpose and goals of a city cultural commission”. In response to Commissioner Shirk’s question, Ms. Hodgkin explained that information was missing about the already established capacity building programs in Mr. McCarthy’s overview. Commissioner Shirk said he interpreted the Capacity Building Plan to seek out organizations such as the Nevada Arts Council “and see if they can make this all work cohesively”. Mr. McCarthy clarified that the “Commission will obviously go through this process and try to take advantage of all the resources that are out there, in order to be able to provide it to our community”. Commissioner Abowd explained that she had also interpreted that “they wanted to propel this Commission to help all the various arts organizations”. Ms. Hodgkin requested that the groups be asked “what is going to propel them forward”. She also believed that “the Foundation Center Resource is fabulous”, with “amazing online training programs”. Commissioner Scott believed dialogue was important and that the Public Arts Program would create such a dialogue with the community.

(7:28:34) – Chairperson Barton addressed an earlier question by Commissioner Mills regarding the vacancy created by Vice Chairperson Block’s resignation. He read from the by-laws: “In the absence or disability of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, the Commission may designate a Chairperson Pro Tempore with a quorum present by majority vote”.

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(7:29:14) – Mr. McCarthy noted that the Capital City Arts Initiative’s mission was to exhibit contemporary art in public spaces, and that their latest exhibit in the Carson City Courthouse atrium was featuring an exhibition by artist Mick Sheldon. He also announced several upcoming events such as a presentation by Mark Chavez on emerging animation at the Carson City Library, a new exhibition at the BRIC featuring various artists, the kickoff of the Books and Writers Series with Gail Murray on October 13, 2011, and a reading by emerging local writer Tracy McQuay on Friday, November 4, 2011.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ACTION TO ADJOURN (7:35:30) –Chairperson Barton entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Scott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 20th day of December, 2011.

Peter Barton, Chairperson