

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of March 26, 2012

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Monday, March 26, 2012, 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 Eugene Paslov
Commissioner James Shirk
Commissioner Robert Stansbury

STAFF: Lee Plemel, Planning Director
Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
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 (5:32:28)** –Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL (5:32:43)** – Roll was called and a quorum was present. Commissioners Mills and Scott were absent as excused. Chairperson Barton welcomed Commissioner Stansbury and invited him to introduce himself. Commissioner Stansbury stated that he was a retired teacher from California, currently substituting in the Carson City School District, and had moved to Carson City in 2006. He added that he belonged to the Rotary and Elks Clubs, and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and that he looked forward to serving on the Commission.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (5:35:06)** – Chairperson Barton entertained public comments. Sharon Rosse, Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI), introduced herself and welcomed Commissioner Stansbury. She also invited the Commission to the upcoming Nevada Neighbors Spring Event, next Wednesday evening at the Carson City Library. She also updated the Commission on several possible exhibit opportunities. Chairperson Barton announced that the Commission would now be staffed by the Parks and Recreation Department instead of the Planning Division. Mr. Moellendorf gave background on this change explaining that his department was excited about the opportunity and introduced Mr. Krahn as the Staff Liaison. Chairperson Barton thanked Mr. Plemel and Mr. McCarthy for their contributions to the Commission and welcomed Mr. Krahn. Mr. Plemel called the change “a good fit” as the Parks and Recreation Department had worked closely with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to acquire the public art along the freeway, in addition to maintaining all the City parks. Commissioner Paslov inquired about governance issues, and Mr. Moellendorf assured him that they worked with several other Commissions which were also autonomous.

4. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 20, 2011. (5:46:24)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item. **Commissioner Paslov moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Abowd seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

5. **AGENDA ITEMS**

5-1. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ELECT A CULTURAL COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR. (5:48:00)** – Chairperson Barton introduced the item and noted that he had been appointed the Executive Director of the Nevada's Sesquicentennial celebration in 2014 by the Governor Sandoval, and therefore wished to step aside as Chair, while remaining an active member of the Commission. Chairperson Barton also noted that Commissioner Mills had contacted him to express her interest in the position of Vice Chair. **Chairperson Barton nominated Commissioner Mills for the position of Vice Chair of the Cultural Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paslov. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Abowd nominated Commissioner Scott for the position of Chairperson**

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of the Cultural Commission. Mr. McCarthy noted that Mr. Scott had been ill and, most likely, would be unable to fulfill his duties as Chairperson. Mr. Plemel explained that the Commission could choose not to nominate a chair today if they wished. Commissioner Shirk nominated Commissioner Abowd, who declined the nomination noting that this was a Citizens' Committee, and because she was a member of the Board of Supervisors "it's not the proper way to go". Commissioner Shirk moved to nominate Commissioner Paslov for the position of Cultural Commission Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Motion carried 5-0.

5-2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADOPT AND RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF CULTURAL COMMISSION BYLAWS. (5:55:05) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd presented a correction to item 1C. Commissioner Stansbury moved to adopt and recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Cultural Commission bylaws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Motion carried 5-0.

5-3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO INCORPORATION OF PUBLIC ART IN PUBLIC PROJECTS, BUILDINGS, AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN CARSON CITY. (5:57:26) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Plemel referred to the Staff Report containing a memo from Commissioner Barton, a draft on public art placement policies from Commissioner Shirk, the public art policies and its pertaining meeting minutes from the City of Elko, and information from Mr. McCarthy on art in public places. Mr. McCarthy complimented Commissioner Shirk on the depth of the information he had provided, and recommended that public meetings and meetings with the arts community be utilized to hear what was appropriate for Carson City. He added that Mr. Moellendorf and Mr. Krahn would provide their expertise with ordinances to take the next steps. Commissioner Abowd suggested defining who the advisory committee would consist of prior to making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Chairperson Paslov suggested looking into traveling art shows as well. Commissioner Shirk recommended combining his guidelines with Commissioner Scott's for a more complete set. Commissioner Abowd clarified that the Nevada Arts Council had agreed to be represented on the advisory committee, in addition to recommending that the Capital City Arts Initiative, a local art gallery owner; and a Parks and Recreation Department representative also be included. Commissioner Barton moved to direct the Parks and Recreation Department Staff, the Business Development office, Mr. McCarthy and the Commission members to present an integrated plan at the next meeting for a possible ordinance for public art. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments. Ms. Rosse suggested making the packet materials available to the general public. Mr. McCarthy agreed that all materials would be assembled for review. Motion Carried 5-0.

5-4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE CULTURAL COMMISSION'S ROLE IN RECEIVING A BLOCK GRANT FROM THE CITY, MANAGING A RE-GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, AND REVIEWING APPLICATIONS AND MAKING SUB-GRANT AWARDS. (6:08:45) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Plemel gave background noting that most of the grant applications had been arts-related and used the City facilities. He also suggested that the Cultural Commission take a more active role. Mr. McCarthy explained that the desire of this Commission for years had been to leverage public money passing through to arts and culture organizations to strengthen their capacity to deliver such services to the community. Commissioner Barton requested to see the current policies and procedures as a benchmark. Commissioner Abowd mentioned that it was logical for the special events funding to fall within this Commission's responsibilities; however, she believed that the community block grants should remain the responsibility of the Redevelopment Area Citizen's Committee. Commissioner Abowd moved to direct Staff to move forward with the re-grant application process and gather the necessary information to move ahead. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stansbury. Chairperson Paslov entertained public Comments. Ms. Rosse recommended that potential grantees have input on the process. Commissioner Abowd believed that would be extremely valuable. Motion carried 5-0.

5-5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE NEVADA STATE

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PRISON TO A MUSEUM OR SOME PUBLIC PURPOSE THAT CELEBRATES THE ARCHITECTURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE IN CARSON CITY AND NEVADA HISTORY, IF THE STATE ABANDONS ITS USE OF FACILITY, AND THE CULTURAL COMMISSION'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN CONVERTING THE PRISON TO SUCH A USE. (6:23:18) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Commissioner Barton gave background on the prison closing and what it could become. He described the possibilities of a museum and the placement of the prison on the National Register of Historic Places. Commissioner Barton also suggested interfacing with the Historic Resources Commission since the facility might be considered for a public or private museum. He offered to coordinate these efforts and hoped to receive public input. Chairperson Paslov suggested facilitating a public discussion on the topic. Commissioner Abowd recommended engaging the State Director of Tourism as well. Commissioner Shirk inquired on whether the building codes would allow the conversion of the prison to a museum. Mr. McCarthy gave the example of the Brewery Arts Center that was subject to similar concerns at the start, and how they were overcome. Commissioner Barton offered to explore several options and return with a recommendation at the next meeting. He also invited everyone to the official prison decommissioning ceremony in the second week of May.

6. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON CARSON CITY ARTS AND CULTURE COALITION ACTIVITIES. (6:44:41) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. McCarthy explained that the Coalition, an advocacy group, meets on a monthly basis at the BRIC, and that they are ready to help the Commission as needed.

B. STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CULTURAL COMMISSION. (6:51:19) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Plemel reminded the Commission that he had included information regarding the freeway art and landscaping project from the Public Works Department, per the Commissioners' request.

C. CULTURAL COMMISSIONER STATUS REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND COMMENTS. (6:45:56) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Commissioner Abowd updated the Commission on the Greenhouse Project, by stating that due to vandalism, almost all the crops could have been lost had it been two degrees colder. She added that the news coverage had generated additional public interest, donations, and volunteers. She added that immediately after the ribbon-cutting, the first harvest had been available. Commissioner Abowd updated the Commission on several fund-raising events for the Greenhouse Project as well. She also reminded the Commission that, per the bylaws, she would present the Commission's report to the Board of Supervisors on May 1, 2012 and wished to have today's information added to it. Chairperson Paslov noted that the Performing Arts High School application was due mid-August.

D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 19, 2012. (6:52:25) – Commissioner Barton suggested updating the Commission's web site and posting all pertaining documents on the site.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS (6:54:12) – Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ACTION TO ADJOURN (6:54:41) – Chairperson Paslov entertained a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Barton moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

The minutes of the March 26, 2012 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 18th day of September, 2012.

EUGENE PASLOV, Chairperson