

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2012

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
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.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:30:59) – Chairperson Paslov called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Commissioner Stansbury was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (5:31:48) – Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

1. **ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:33:52)** – There were no minutes to approve.
2. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:33:58)** – There were no modifications to the agenda.
3. **MEETING ITEMS**

A. 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. (5:34:38) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Krahn reminded the Commission of the previous Commission meeting in which ordinances in general had been discussed. He also noted that more specifics would be discussed in this meeting. Mr. Krahn believed that the Commission was receptive to using the City of Elko Public Arts Program, incorporated into the record, as an example. He walked the Commission through a PowerPoint presentation and presented several ideas such as a “trust fund” dedicated to public art, and a suggestion that a percentage of public improvement projects be “dedicated to an art component”. Discussion ensued regarding dedicating small percentages of enterprise and non-enterprise funds to create reserve funds for the arts. Commissioner Scott suggested considering the handling of donations as well. Mr. Moellendorf suggested addressing whether the funds could be used for remodel and renovations, or not. Mr. Krahn also recommended excluding private development, adding that thresholds should be set as well. In response to a question about next steps, Mr. Krahn suggested coming up with a draft ordinance that the Commission felt “reasonably comfortable with” for discussion in the next meeting, and to seek public opinion. Commissioner Scott suggested involving the business community and their leaders in the decision-making process. Chairperson Paslov entertained commissioner Feedback. All Commissioners favored of the creation of a trust fund, with a sliding-scale approach suggested by Commissioner Abowd. Chairperson Paslov and Commissioners Shirk preferred the general fund over the enterprise fund. Vice Chairperson Mills and Commissioners Abowd and Barton preferred utilizing a percentage of capital projects fund, which constituted a special Capital Project Fund, in lieu of overtaxing the citizens. Discussion ensued regarding the economy and its effect on the current city income. It was suggested that Mr. Krahn and Mr. Moellendorf return with more scenarios on how to deal with capital improvement projects utilizing the sliding scale concept. It was also agreed that maintenance should not be covered, green technology should be heavily favored, and

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2012

Page 2

donations could be specified by project and should be excluded from the trust fund appropriations. Mr. Krahn thanked the Commission and noted that these were “great directions”. Mr. Moellendorf also suggested specifying how fund should be used. Commissioner Abowd recommended following the Elko Ordinance to better document the definitions for art and artist. Chairperson Paslov entertained citizen comments; however, none were forthcoming.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO USE THE CULTURAL COMMISSION AS A PUBLIC FORUM TO SOLICIT IDEAS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE DECOMMISSIONED NEVADA STATE PRISON TO A MUSEUM OR SOME OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSE THAT CELEBRATES THE ARCHITECTURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE IN CARSON CITY AND NEVADA HISTORY AND THE CULTURAL COMMISSION’S POSSIBLE ROLE IN CONVERTING THE PRISON TO SUCH A USE. (6:28:57) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave background and referred to material in the packets regarding the decommissioned Nevada State Prison, and outlined the steps necessary to move forward with converting it into a museum, thanking Chairperson Paslov for his ideas. Vice Chairperson Mills recommended starting as soon as possible and suggested starting a non-profit auxiliary or a foundation. She added that fund raising or grants should also be considered. Commissioner Barton noted the presence of several audience members who were spearheading this project, explaining that he, along with Chairperson Paslov and members of the Committee, had attended a meeting with Mayor Crowell, Supervisor Abowd and other City officials regarding this subject. He also noted that a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was in the works, spearheaded by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Commissioner Abowd added that the State would go through a procedure to allow “un-mothballing”, which she considered reassuring. Commissioner Scott gave the example of a former torpedo factory in Alexandria Virginia which had become an artists’ colony and suggested allowing local artists to work in a collective space in Carson City. Commissioner Shirk inquired about the land wondering whether it would be purchased from the State or would be given to the City. Chairperson Paslov noted that he was in support of the “creative applications that could come out of this”. He also entertained citizen comments.

(6:47:44) – Myron Carpenter, a former teacher at Douglas High School, explained that he had taken his students to the prison as part of school field trips for government classes, and outlined the benefits of using the facility within the educational system. He explained that they would utilize part of the prison to build a museum, and that they were currently in the process obtaining non-profit status. Mr. Carpenter also stated that he had been in touch with several prisons to learn from their experiences. Vice Chairperson Mills thanked Mr. Carpenter and offered her fundraising expertise. Mr. Carpenter added that he had several new additions to their Board some of whom were former correctional officers at the prison. In response to a question, Mr. Carpenter explained that it would not be possible to visit the site, as it was currently locked. Barry Smith explained that he was supportive of the project, and suggested “making sure it’s going to work” by securing volunteers and funds, prior to branching out. He also inquired whether legislation was required. Ray Bacon believed that some legislation for exemptions would be required, because the building would not meet the required fire codes. He also suggested using screens in addition to boarding up the facility to prevent pigeons from inhabiting it. **Vice Chairperson Mills moved to use the Cultural Commission as a public forum to solicit ideas from the public regarding the possibility of converting the decommissioned Nevada State Prison to a museum or some other public purpose that celebrates the architecture and significance of the site in Carson City and Nevada History and the Cultural Commission’s possible role in converting the prison to such a use. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abowd. Motion Carried 6-0.**

Commissioner Abowd left at 7:15 p.m.

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY STAFF TO MODIFY THE CULTURAL COMMISSION’S CITY WEB PAGE. (7:15:02) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Krahn explained that based on a discussion during the previous meeting, he had revised the website of the Cultural Commission, based on the ordinance and bylaws of the Commission, noting that it was a few clicks away from the City’s home page. He also gave a brief description of the site and noted some of the recent changes. Commissioner Barton praised the website and pointed out a minor edit. Vice Chairperson Mills agreed with Commissioner Barton’s comments. Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2012

Page 3

D. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY'S LANDSCAPE PROJECT'S VISUAL AND AESTHETIC TREATMENTS, INCLUDING THE DESIGN INTEGRATION OF THE PROJECT'S ARTISTIC ELEMENTS INTO A PROJECT FRAMEWORK. (7:19:31) – Chairperson Paslov introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave background on the project which, he explained, was executed by Carson City, NDOT, and Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides. He reviewed the decision making process and the integration of visual art images and aesthetic improvements of the Highway 395 landscaping from the North Carson Street Interchange to the Fairview Drive interchange. Mr. Krahn presented a compilation of photographs, incorporated into the record, depicting Carson City's history in motion. He noted that the metal cutouts were secured to the chain link fences, and were larger than life size images for visibility. Mr. Krahn stated that the City projects consisted of the images of the V&T roundhouse and trains, stage coaches, native plants, ore carts, etc. He explained that the walls had only been tagged twice. In response to a question by Commissioner Barton, Mr. Krahn stated that the sculpture locations were excavated and that rock mulch would be used so that only the top portion of the concrete footing would be visible. He also advised that an eagle signifying Eagle Valley would be added. Chairperson Paslov inquired about cost and Mr. Krahn explained that the NDOT sculptures at the Fairview Drive interchange and the Fifth Street overpass had cost around \$1.25 Million, and the City project from Highway 40 to North Carson Street would cost around \$3 Million. Mr. Krahn also noted that some have questioned the expense during such economic times; however, the project had been awarded as a congressional earmark many years ago, and during better economic conditions. He added that the funds were spent locally and materials had been purchased from local suppliers. Commissioner Scott expressed his support for the project and received confirmation that the next phase of the freeway would receive similar treatment, and that the tribal areas would have a "basket theme". Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments; however none were forthcoming.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

A. UPDATE ON CARSON CITY ARTS AND CULTURE COALITION ACTIVITIES. (7:55:35) – Due to Mr. McCarthy's absence, there were no updates.

B. UPDATE ON THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CITIZENS COMMITTEE'S VOTE TO KEEP THE REDEVELOPMENT SPECIAL EVENT FUNDING PROCESS THE SAME AND WITHIN THEIR COMMITTEE'S PURVIEW. (7:57:30) – Due to Commissioner Abowd's absence, it was agreed to agendaize this item for the next meeting.

C. UPDATE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF CULTURAL COMMISSION BYLAWS. (7:57:52) – Mr. Krahn explained that Lee Plemel, Planning Director, had presented the bylaws to the Board of Supervisors for approval; however, upon the request of the City Manager, the Board had decided to review all bylaws at the same time.

D. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. (7:59:06) – Mr. Krahn stated that Mr. Plemel and Supervisor Abowd had presented the annual report, incorporated into the record, to the Board of Supervisors.

E. SCHEDULING AN OPEN MEETING LAW PRESENTATION TO THE CULTURAL COMMISSION BY THE CARSON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. (7:59:51) – Mr. Moellendorf suggested a presentation by the District Attorney's Office to review the Open Meeting Law.

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. CULTURAL COMMISSION STATUS REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND COMMENTS. (8:00:50) – Commissioner Barton announced that he had been assigned the planning effort and management of Nevada's sesquicentennial celebration (the 150th anniversary of Nevada's admission to the Union). A seven-member committee appointed by Governor Sandoval would be responsible for the initial public outreach and planning, after which the

CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 2012

Page 4

Governor would appoint a forty-member commission to execute the plan, kicking off on Nevada Day 2013 and lasting an entire year. Vice Chairperson Mills requested a printed copy of the agenda packet in addition to the e-mailed version.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. (8:06:12) – Commissioner Barton suggested revisiting the special event funding process.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS (8:07:57) – Chairperson Paslov entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

8. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:10:20) – Chairperson Paslov entertained a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Scott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Mills. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.**

The minutes of the June 19, 2012 meeting of the Carson City Cultural Commission are so approved this 18th day of September, 2012.

EUGENE PASLOV, Chairperson