



Town of Prescott Valley
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Arts & Culture Commission
WORK STUDY MEETING
7501 E. Skoog Blvd., 3rd Floor, Conf. Rm. 330
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 11, 2021

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order & Welcome:** *N. Smith, Chair*

Chair Smith called the meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Members present: Chairperson Nancy Smith, Vice Chair Andy Sinclair, ~~Secretary Edward Lira~~, Commissioner Barbara Balis, Commissioner Diane Mohr, Commissioner Amanda Zhu

Staff Present: Casey Van Haren, Community Services Director, Mary Lou Arnold, Community Services Administrator

Commissioner Lira joined the meeting at 5:40pm.

3. **Welcome New Commissioner Amanda Zhu**

Chair Smith introduced and welcomed the newest Commissioner, Amanda Zhu.

Commissioner Zhu is a student at Embry Riddle and expressed how happy she is to be a part of Arts & Culture in Prescott Valley. Commissioner Zhu is an oil painter and has taken piano lessons since she was a child and lived in China. She moved to Prescott Valley five years ago.

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairperson Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **Commissioner Balis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sinclair seconded the motion. Motion carried by all members present.**

Director Van Haren stated that Vice Mayor Hunt is running late. Chair Smith asked that we amend the agenda to move Item 7 to Item 5. All Commissioners stated in favor to move Item 7 to Item 5.

5. **Jenkins Obelisk Dedication, August 28, 2021:** *Chairperson Smith*

Discussion ensued on the unveiling of the Jenkins Obelisk. Invitations have been mailed to local dignitaries and a program is being developed. Director Van Haren stated that Ryan Judy, Deputy Town Manager, met with the Trustee, Brian Monteith. The Trustee received invitations to distribute to the Jenkins Family but he does not believe the family will attend the ceremony.

The Trustee has agreed to speak at the unveiling and give a little history about Ray and Jean Jenkins. The artist, Ed Reilly will also speak about the piece and his inspiration for the different sides of the Obelisk representing the history of the Town of Prescott Valley.

Chair Smith has seen the application of the patina colors and stated the piece is magnificent.

Commissioners also discussed the installation of Tom White's "Flora and Fauna" sculpture which is scheduled for installation on December 11, 2021. Flora and Fauna is a temporary name and not the official title of the piece. Vice Chair Sinclair stated that he recalls from a previous meeting the artist plans to leave the title up to the Commission. Director Van Haren stated she will contact the artist to verify that information. Commissioners will entertain the idea of having a contest for public input to submit names for the sculpture.

6. Future of Arts & Culture in Prescott Valley: L. Hunt, Vice Mayor

Vice Mayor Hunt introduced herself and her husband Dene to the Commissioners. Vice Mayor Hunt is Chair of the Selection Committee for the Boards and Commission for the Town of Prescott Valley.

Director Van Haren opened the discussion and said that she hopes that all of the Commissioners received her email regarding the proposal to combine the Arts & Culture Commission with the Parks & Recreation Commission and that Vice Mayor Hunt is here to elaborate on that idea and answer questions from the Commissioners.

Vice Mayor Hunt stated that after Director Van Haren brought this request to combine commissions to her that she contacted Lora Lee Nye, former Vice Mayor and Councilmember, and founding member of the Arts & Culture Commission in Prescott Valley. She stated that Ms. Nye is opposed to the idea of merging the commissions.

After discussion with Town staff and a presentation from Director Van Haren, Vice Mayor Hunt is here to present this idea to the commissioners before it goes to a study session with Town Council. Vice Mayor Hunt said this will involve an amendment to Town Code. The proposed merged commission will be called Parks, Arts and Recreation Council or Commission (PARC).

Vice Mayor Hunt and the selection committee would like to meet with all the current Commissioners, both Arts & Culture and Parks & Recreation, to find who is interested in serving on the new PARC. The commission will consist of nine (9) voting members, and two non-voting members. The two non-voting members will be one high school student and one college student – Ms. Zhu was just appointed as the college student commissioner and will remain.

Additionally, a PARC foundation is being created, similar to the Police Foundation. Vice Mayor Hunt strongly believes that the commission will be stronger with a merger. She then opened the floor to questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lira: Is there a Board for the foundation? And will the current commissioners transfer to the new PARC commission?

Vice Mayor Hunt: Yes, but the foundation needs an Arts & Culture member and there are two Library seats open. The new PARC will consist of 9 voting and 2 non-voting members.

Chair Smith: How many members of each commission will have a seat on the new PARC?

Vice Mayor Hunt: The plan is to interview all current members and select those who wish to sit on the PARC Board, or Library Board. We have had difficulty keeping members, and I plan to ask for funds for training of commissioners and board members on open meeting

laws, etc. I am committed to increasing the budget for Arts & Culture and restore it to previous levels.

Vice Chair Sinclair: I work for the Arizona Department of Economic Services and there currently is a lot of grant money available from the American Rescue Plan for the arts. Money could be used for expanding Theater on the Green for construction, non-construction and more cultural activities.

Commissioner Mohr: I have a dance background, and would like to see community dances, ethnic group exhibitions and performing arts.

Commissioner Balis: I have lived in several communities, one of which had a program called "Cows on Parade" wherein fiberglass cows were purchased by local business, painted by local artists and then auctioned. We have suggested a similar program with painted birdhouses in previous meetings. We'd like to have more public involvement in creating our programs.

Chair Smith: Before the 2008 recession, we were planning for a "Pronghorns on Parade", but it has never been revived.

General discussion ensued on projects to identify Prescott Valley, creating a brand and entry monuments. People who visit this area know where Prescott is, not realizing they just drove through Prescott Valley to get there.

Vice Mayor Hunt: Before I go, one last thing; because we can't collect development impact monies, we need to court large businesses for arts and cultural revenues. There is a Town of Prescott Valley new branding campaign being developed and entry monuments will help secure an identity for the Town of Prescott Valley.

In closing, this is not a done deal and may not be palatable to you, but I support Casey on the recommendation. Come when we have the work study for Council. Seriously consider this. Arts is still going to be an important part of our community.

Director Van Haren: I contacted the City of Yuma and asked how their combined commission works. Some meetings are heavier on Arts and some have more focus on Parks. Their commissions are successful and meetings last anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Vice Chair Sinclair: We have the bylaws of the Arts & Culture Commission, wherein there are five members whose focus is to advise the Town Council on Arts & Culture. I want to focus on Arts & Culture. My preference to keep the commissions separate.

Secretary Lira: I'm for it, more so if all of us joined the new commission. I'm an artist. It might be an option to have all members merge on the commission to start and then when members leave go down to nine members.

Chair Smith: Here we are, how will we make this work when we combine? Our committee meetings are self-directed – do we bring these to the major commission? Does this proposal of merger have to have public readings and new by laws?

Vice Mayor Hunt: I think we will get more support merged; let's keep the dialogue going. Because Director Van Haren has recommended this merge, we will consider moving forward and I support her position. I invite all the Commissioners to attend the Town Council work study sessions; I invite you to call me to discuss your concerns.

Vice Mayor Hunt left the meeting at 6:40pm.

7. Commission Comments and Discussion regarding "Future of Arts & Culture in Prescott Valley"

Commissioners discussed their individual concerns about this proposed merger and the growth of Arts & Culture in the Town of Prescott Valley. There is still much to know, trust to be built, and funds reappropriated back to Arts & Culture. We have a lot of things to consider.

Director Van Haren stated that Vice Mayor Hunt is a huge advocate for the Arts and there are many positive aspects to this proposed merger.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 5:30pm, **Crystal Room**

9. Adjournment

With no further questions or comments, Chairperson Smith said that the meeting stands adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 6:56p.m.

Secretary Lira

Chairperson Smith

Respectively submitted by Mary Lou Arnold, Community Services Administrator
August 12, 2021