

Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION September 13, 2021

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) recorded at 6:00pm on September 13, 2021 and held in a virtual meeting via Webex.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jacqueline Bernatt
Jeff Davis – Vice-chair
Maureen Kobierowski
Harper Lines
Haylee Mills
Peggy Moroney
Robert Nichols
Jennifer Song
Randall Schmidt (via phone)
Justin Stewart – Chair
Ginny Sylvester

(MEMBERS) Absent:

NA

City Staff Present:

Brendan Ross, Deputy Director – Tempe Arts & Culture
Joy Higgins, Management Assistant – Tempe Arts & Culture
Brenda Abney, Museum Manager – Tempe History Museum
Eileen May, Managing Director – Tempe Center for the Arts
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Administrator – Tempe Public Art
Maja Aurora, Administrator – Tempe Community Arts
Kara Osburn, Financial Analyst – Tempe Arts & Culture
Keith Burke, Director – Community Services Department
Corey Woods, Mayor – City of Tempe
Brianna Fisher, Mayoral Aid – City of Tempe

Guest(s) Present:

NA

Call to Order

- **Justin Stewart**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

- None

Agenda Item 2 – New Commissioner Introduction

- **Robert Nichols** introduced himself and shared his background in the arts and law. He looks forward to combining those experiences for the benefit of the Tempe Arts & Culture Commission.

Agenda Item 3 – Mayor Corey Woods

- **Mayor Corey Woods** discussed live music in Tempe, including Shady Park and Danelle Plaza. Details include:
 - Tempe City Council is supportive of Tempe's live music scene
 - The aim is to foster the conditions for live music to flourish organically, not try to create the live music scene
 - Shady Park: established in 2015 as live music/restaurant venue
 - Local mainstay for live electronic dance music (EDM)
 - Residents of the new Mirabella at ASU complex (opened in late 2020) sent emails to City Council and calls to Tempe PD to report disturbance from the loud music. The Mayor and Rosa Inchausti, Deputy City Manager, held a talk with new residents of Mirabella stating excitement for this new community of residents, and a desire to address their concerns and get things right. It was requested of the residents to contact the Mayor's

- office or City Manager's Office directly so that the City and Mirabella residents can work together to create a solution.
- The issue sparked a conversation about the future of live music in Tempe: accommodate the changing demographics, or support the live music heritage of Tempe and the established venues that host live music? The City responded with support for Shady Park live events and is putting much effort into creating meaningful relationships with live music venues to aid in their success and recognize their value in the community.
 - In February 2021 Shady Park applied for a permit to construct a sound deadening canopy, which was recently completed in September. The sound canopy was constructed with no financial assistance request to the city. Shady Park wishes to be a good neighbor and will continue to assess and respond to the impact of loud music on neighboring establishments and communities.
 - The City recognizes that it should be expediting permit requests from local businesses that address potential issues of conflict with the community.
 - The City encourages Tempe residents and business owners to contact the Mayor's Office and City Manager's Office directly to have conversations about issues, collaborate on solutions, and avoid negative eruptions on social media and in the press.
 - The Mayor makes much effort to engage with zoning attorneys and developers on the front end, and tries to ensure that Tempe City Council is speaking with one unified voice regarding developments.
- Danelle Plaza, home to Yucca Tap Room, an iconic live music/bar/food venue
 - The central tract of land is owned by the City of Tempe, equating to about 50 % of the property at Danelle Plaza.
 - In March of 2021 an RFQ was released by the City for the development of that central tract in the form of artist live/work accommodations. This RFQ has since been cancelled, but a new RFQ is being constructed.
 - The City wants to encourage the preservation of the arts and music scene established at Danelle Plaza through housing that serves the people and culture of this area.
 - ArtSpace
 - ArtSpace is an artist live/work complex. There is one site in the state, located in Mesa.
 - Tempe City Council has worked diligently to approve an ArtSpace location in the Apache Boulevard corridor. They are currently working on a financing plan.
 - TACC feedback:
 - It is appreciated that COT is fostering the arts & music scene; Yucca Tap Room and live music has a place in Tempe history.
 - Places for people to practice their craft is as important as affordable spaces to live.

Agenda Item 4 – Deputy Director Introduction

- **Brendan Ross** introduced himself as the new Deputy Community Services Director of Arts & Culture and shared his professional background.

Agenda Item 5 - Approval of the June 14, 2021 Commission Minutes

J. Stewart asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated June 14, 2021.

MOTION: Maureen Kobierowski moved to approve the June 14, 2021 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Harper Lines seconded

AYES: Jacqueline Bernatt, Jeff Davis, Maureen Kobierowski, Harper Lines, Haylee Mills, Peggy Moroney, Robert Nichols, Jennifer Song, Justin Stewart, Ginny Sylvester

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

RESULT: Motion passed with an 10-0 vote

ABSENT: Randall Schmidt (no audio capabilities by which to vote)

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion: Tempe 150 – Commission Participation

- **Brenda Abney** presented volunteer opportunities for TACC members at the Tempe 150 celebration to be held at Tempe Town Lake on Sunday, November 7, 2021 from noon-6pm.
 - The north side of the lake will feature two live music stages, a beer garden, information/craft/artisan booths, a public art installation, food trucks, and plenty of historic information about the City of Tempe.
 - Joy will create and send out a sign up for Arts & Culture specific booths needing volunteer help from commissioners.
 - A flyer will be printed with information about TACC and the Arts & Culture Division to help grow awareness and encourage commission service.
 - Please send Joy any ideas for swag/handouts for the TACC/A+C booth.
 - TACC feedback: a recommendation to offer a sign-up sheet for the A+C email notification listserv.

Agenda Item 7 – Update: Arts & Culture Division

- **Keith Burke**, Community Services Director provided updates for the Community Services Department.
 - Community Services programs have returned in-person as well as hybrid. Fall programming started on September 7th.
 - Seven new positions coming to Arts & Culture, four Arts & Culture Coordinators and three Arts & Culture Specialists. These positions will help grow programming for the community.
 - Mayor and council have mandated proof of vaccinations for in-person events in order to move forward safely with the COVID pandemic.
- **Brendan Ross**, Deputy Community Services Director of Arts & Culture provided updates for the Arts & Culture Division.
 - The Arts & Culture team has shown remarkable adaptability to create and continue programs and services during the pandemic.
 - B. Ross has spent the first few months gaining a sense of where are the Arts & Culture Division priorities and where to energize resources to keep moving forward.
- **Kara Osburn**, Arts & Culture Financial Analyst
 - Gave a brief history of arts taxes with the City of Tempe. The current Arts & Culture Tax began on January 1, 2021, being .10/cent of sales tax in perpetuity.
 - K. Osburn reported on projected funding from the Arts & Culture Tax and where the expenses vs budget stand after the first quarter of the fiscal year.
 - The Broadway show Mean Girls, coming to the valley via Gammage Auditorium, has secured the theater and back of house spaces at TCA for rehearsal in October. This is a positive business partnership and a unique opportunity to showcase the city and Tempe Center for the Arts.
 - Tempe Center for the Arts was awarded the Shattered Venue Operators Grant of \$451,000 from the Federal Small Business Administration. The purpose of the grant is to partially cover lost revenue during the pandemic. The funds will be used for equipment purchases, marketing support, and staff support to assist in the reopening process.
 - TACC feedback: separate the tax revenue from the earned revenue to get a better glancing read of the budget report.

Agenda Item 6 – Program Reports

- **A. Tempe Public Art** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/publicart.
- **B. Community Arts** - Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/arts and www.tempe.gov/ednaarts.
- **C. Tempe Center for the Arts** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempecenterforthearts.com.
- **D. History Museum** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/museum.

Agenda Item 7 – Commission Member Announcements

- Ginny Sylvester:
 - Enjoys the new public art installation, “Lanterns” by Kris Manzanaras, at Tempe Town Lake across from TCA.
- Jacqueline:
 - The Tempe Rotary Club – Downtown is interested in learning more about Tempe Public Art.
- Maureen Kobierowski:
 - Daley Park plinth for temporary art: there will be a public meeting Wednesday, September 15th at noon to discuss continuing temporary projects or installing a permanent piece as a gateway.
- Jeff Davis:
 - Served on the Wave Maker Grant panel, see [Arts Grants](#) web page for information.
- Harper Lines
 - A Served on the Wave Maker Grant panel, see [Arts Grants](#) web page for information.
- Peggy Moroney:
 - Volunteer guides are needed for the Tempe 150 Double Butte Cemetery Tour.
 - Please attend the October 31st event at Double Butte Cemetery.
 - The Gallery at TCA will be opening a new exhibit in late September called “Color.”
 - An RFQ for the historic Hayden Flour Mill property is active, Peggy requests that TACC to be involved in that process.
- Justin Stewart:
 - Was involved in the Danelle RFQ through its rise and fall. The RFQ will be revised and rereleased.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Information on RFQ for Hayden Flour Mill property
- Relationships with orgs like Tempe Rotary Clubs and Kiwanis Clubs
- ArtSpace development information

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm**

Prepared by Joy Higgins
Reviewed by Brendan Ross