

Minutes

TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

October 16, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) meeting recorded at 6:00pm on October 16, 2023, held at Eisendrath House, 1300 N College Avenue.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jacqueline Swan – Vice-chair
Maureen Kobierowski – Chair
Haylee Mills
Lisa Roach
Jennifer Song
Justin Stewart
Ginny Sylvester

City Staff Present:

Brendan Ross, Deputy Director – Arts & Culture Division
Joy Higgins, Management Assistant – Arts & Culture Division
Kara Osburn, Financial Analyst – Arts & Culture Division
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Manager – Tempe Public Art
Eileen May, General Manager – Tempe Center for the Arts
Brenda Abney, Manager – Tempe History Museum
Maja Aurora, Manager – Tempe Community Arts

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Harper Lines

Guest(s) Present:

Ignacio Ventura, ASU student

Call to Order

- **Maureen Kobierowski**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

- None

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the September 11, 2023 Commission Minutes

M. Kobierowski asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated September 11, 2023.

MOTION: Jacqueline Swan moved to approve the September 11, 2023 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Ginny Sylvester seconded

AYES: Jacqueline Swan, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Jennifer Song, Justin Stewart, Ginny Sylvester

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

RESULT: Motion passed with a 7-0 vote

ABSENT: Harper Lines

Agenda Item 3 – Updates: Arts & Culture Division

- Historic Houses, Brenda Abney
 - B. Abney gave a review of all current historic properties under the purview of Tempe History Museum and the increased visitation numbers since hiring more full-time staff and the addition of new sites and programming.

- Mill Avenue Underpass Public Art, Rebecca Blume Rothman
 - R.B. Rothman provided details about the artist selection process, an introduction of the chosen artist, Joseph O'Connell, and his design submission for the site.
 - Commissioner comments
 - Recommend solar lighting for illumination during night hours
 - Appreciate illuminating the dark corners of the public pathway
 - Appreciate that an artist is excited for this project
 - Comments can be made to City Council in relation to the Work Study Session presentation on Thursday, October 18
- CIP Update, Brendan Ross
 - TCA Pond
 - There are ongoing pond leak issues across the sidewalk and beneath the pond into the infrastructure of the TCA
 - A consultant was hired to study the issues and will provide four costed options for further consideration
 - Repair the pond as it stands
 - Two options of reducing the surface area of water and create some segments of hardscape
 - Convert the entirety of the pond to hardscape
 - City staff will evaluate the options once presented and will update TACC in future meetings
 - Edna Arts building
 - The building is over 50 years old
 - The current use is at odds with how it was designed and for what it was intended
 - The large programming space does not have acoustic separation from the office space
 - A stage area has been converted to open office space with no ADA access
 - Starting a conversation: The value of participatory arts to the city, and what is necessary for our residents to participate in the arts with adequate infrastructure while also prioritizing staff needs
 - Any current proposed solution or plan is likely to take 10 years or more; the issue is not funding, it is the pipeline in the city priorities and civic will.
 - Presenting this information is intended to plant a seed and apprise TACC with issues faced by the Arts & Culture Division. A future TACC meeting will held at the Edna Arts Center for the group to experience the space in person.
 - Commissioner comments:
 - Commissioners expressed concern for the make-shift conditions and cramped spaces that staff use for office and storage space and instructors use for class instruction.
 - The Tempe community actively participates in art in many ways. The expectation of Tempeans for infrastructure that enables diverse arts participation opportunities is well above what the current facility is able to provide.
- TAC Awards, Joy Higgins
 - TAC Awards planning is starting up for 2024. Please let Joy know if you are interested in the planning process or in the selection panel in spring.

Agenda Item 4 – TACC Annual Report Review

- Joy Higgins presented a draft document of the 2023 TACC Annual Report for review by the Commission
- 2024 TACC goals to be developed at January retreat
 - This plan is supported by the Arts & Culture Commissioners

Agenda Item 5 – TACC Activations

- **Recent Activations**
 - Set up meeting times with partner commissions:

- Jacqueline – Human Relations Commission – March
- Ginny – Library Advisory Board – March or April (conversation ongoing)
- Jennifer – Parks, Recreation, Golf, and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board
- Haylee – Neighborhood Advisory Commission – March
- Justin – Desert Conservation Commission
- Maureen – Commission on Disability Concerns
- Lisa – Historic Preservation Commission
- Closer to March TACC will partner with staff to create a slideshow and calendar the meetings
- Maureen –
 - Attended Hekiu presentation at Tempe Center for the Arts; enlightening
 - Attended Tina Turner show at Gammage, great experience
- Jacqueline – Economic Impact of the Arts (EAP6) presentation provided great information
- **Upcoming Activations**
 - Tempe Playlist book distribution
 - Maureen – Paul Kent (Ditch Music, and other live events); ASU Memorial Union; the Dark Side
 - Ginny – Changing Hands;
 - Jacqueline – YMCA; ASU Homecoming;
 - GAIN events this weekend
 - ATC event on Saturday at TCA

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- Hekiu presentation

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Prepared by: Joy Higgins