

## Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION April 10, 2019

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) recorded at 6:30pm on April 10, 2019, within the Tempe History Museum Program Room, 809 E Southern Avenue, Tempe 85282.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Michael Bennett (by phone until 6:44pm)  
Anthony Johnson  
Maureen Kobierowski  
Peggy Moroney  
Kelly Nelson  
Michael Rohd  
Justin Stewart  
Aaron Thacker – Chair

**City Staff Present:**

Brenda Abney, Visual Arts & Culture Manager  
Eileen May, Managing Director-Tempe Center for the Arts  
Joy Higgins, Administrative Assistant-Arts & Culture Division  
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Director of Public Art

**Guest(s) Present:**

None

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Lisa Hobson  
Kiyomi Kurooka  
Ginny Sylvester

**Call to Order**

- **Aaron Thacker**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:36pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

- David Martin, Artist

**Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the March 13, 2019 Commission Minutes**

**A. Thacker asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated March 13, 2019.**

- **MOTION:** Kelly Nelson moved to approve the March 13, 2019 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes with amendments.
- **SECOND:** Maureen Kobierowski seconded.
- **AYES:** Anthony Johnson, Maureen Kobierowski, Kelly Nelson, Peggy Moroney, Michael Rohd, Justin Stewart,
- **NAYS:** None. Aaron Thacker abstains.
- **RESULT:** Motion passed with an 6-0-1 vote.
- **ABSENT:** Lisa Hobson, Kiyomi Kurooka, Ginny Sylvester

**Agenda Item 3 – Commissioner Introductions**

The commission went around the room to introduce themselves to the newest commissioner, Michael Bennett, who was present via phone. Michael was appointed to the Tempe Arts & Culture Commission by Mayor and Council on March 28, 2019.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Chairperson’s Briefing**

A. Thacker introduced himself and encouraged the commission to consider the question, “why are we serving and what is our impact?”

- Notable efforts by the Arts & Culture Commission include engaging with the community at art festivals, creating the Arts & Culture Awards, focusing on Danelle Plaza, advising City Council on issues, advocate for programs in South Tempe, and supporting staff initiatives.
- It is important that arts & culture be relevant to the area in which it resides. The efforts of the commission contribute to the ways arts & culture are manifested in Tempe. The most successful cities are those which recognize the value that arts & culture contribute.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Presentation: Public Art Update**

- **Rebecca Blume Rothman**, Director of Public Art, presented information about current projects in Tempe Public Art. Most project details can be found in the written report. Additional details include:
  - *Sirens of Highway 60* by Michael Maglich is in repair. The faces featured on the sculptural cast birds are based on people of Tempe, including Eric Iwersen and Betsy Fahlman. Original casts will be used to create replicates to replace damaged birds featured on the wall.
  - The [Estrada Park](#) dedication, with integrated artwork by Mary Shindell was dedicated by Mayor and Council on Saturday, April 6th. She installed floral litho-mosaics in the pathways, and created designs for the rubberized playground surfaces.
  - Goodwin Park [Arts in the Parks](#) featured artist Ann Morton who collected acts of kindness on wildflower seed infused paper.
  - [Highline Canal Multi-use Pathway](#) has a section that goes underground called “Auto Loop Link” where landscaping, seating and shade will be placed as an inviting continuation of the pathway. Seattle artist John Fleming was chosen to design public art for this area of the project. Fabrication is underway and should be installed in May. The artwork will be protected until the project is completed near the end of summer.
  - [www.tempe.gov/PublicArt](http://www.tempe.gov/PublicArt)

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Program Reports: Written reports provided.**

- **A. Public Art & Galleries** – Current events can be found in the written report and at [www.tempe.gov/publicart](http://www.tempe.gov/publicart) and [www.tempe.gov/tcagallery](http://www.tempe.gov/tcagallery).
- **B. History Museum** – Current events can be found in the written report and at [www.tempe.gov/museumevents](http://www.tempe.gov/museumevents).
  - DL White will be presenting information about Paul Robeson, an actor, singer and activist who spoke out against racism and fascism. Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **C. Tempe Center for the Arts** – Current events can be found in the written report and at [www.tempecenterforthearts.com](http://www.tempecenterforthearts.com).
- **D. Arts Engagement** - Current events can be found in the written report and at [www.tempe.gov/arts](http://www.tempe.gov/arts) and [www.tempe.gov/ednaarts](http://www.tempe.gov/ednaarts).
  - Community, Festival, and TCA Excellence Arts Grants are due May 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Vibrant Artist Cohort applications are due May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - The last Arts in the Parks event is Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from noon-4pm at Papago Park

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Commission Members’ Announcements/Future Agenda Items**

- **Kelly Nelson:**
  - Attended Goodwin Park Arts in the Parks event
  - Performed with Wicked Pitch of the West at Scudder Park Arts in the Parks event
- **Peggy Moroney**
  - Future agenda item: Would like to see this group have a relationship with the historical society and historic preservation groups to advocate to save historic structures including the adobe building used by the [Tempe Women’s Club](#).
  - Future agenda item: historic properties in Tempe
  - [Hayden’s Ferry Days](#) was extremely successful and well attended

- **Maureen Kobierowski**
  - A Humanities Lab titled “Facing Immigration” will be doing a mural in downtown Phoenix; they are seeking 60 volunteers to help paint and earn community service hours.
- **Justin Stewart:**
  - [Tempe Screened](#) happened on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Tempe Center for the Arts, a co-produced documentary with Evan Liggins about Tempe. The evening featured live music and a post-film discussion panel. 115 attended and the panel discussion was spirited. Aiming for five more screenings locally.
  - Attended Clark Park Arts in the Parks, enjoyed public art project by Bobby Zokaite
- **Michael Rohd:**
  - [ASU Gammage](#) has a series called “Gammage Beyond” that has been working for two years with Cornerstone Theater and playwright Larissa FastHorse on “Native Nations.” They are building a show that is the largest professional production with a paid cast of indigenous local performers in the US. Performances are at the Gila River Reservation April 20-21, and Indian School Park April 27-28. The ticketed event will also feature food, art stalls and a local gathering of tribal members from the southwest.
- **A. Thacker**
  - Tempe Playlist: Saturn Sessions is a project with Creative Communities Institute, funded by a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Members of the Tempe group include Michael Rohd, Gail Shanks, Maja Aurora, Maggie Fontain, and Samuel Pena. The project uses art as a vehicle to create community connection in south Tempe. Two podcasts were created and are available at [www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist](http://www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist). The Tempe team was selected for a second grant by the ACA. This year’s objective is to get the music out in the community through live performances.
  - While out of town for three months, saw much art and many galleries including Baltimore’s art and the influence through war, the Johnny Cash Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and many others.
- **B. Abney** reviewed suggestions for future agenda items:
  - Historic properties at risk, include staff that knows city regulation
  - Focus on history topics, presentation about Walking Mill Avenue
  - Revisit first A+C awards, discussion about plans for next year

#### **Agenda Item 8 –Adjournment**

- Next meeting: May 8, 2019, location to be determined.
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.**

Prepared by: Joy Higgins

Reviewed by: Brenda Abney