



The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces Quality of Life/City Art Board** held at 4:30 p.m. on March 9, 2023, at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM, Conference Room 1158.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katrina Chandler
Christina Ballew
Melanie Grey Brown
Chantelle Yazzie-Martin
Greg Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Adam Amador

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ceci Vasconcellos
Alana Bradley
Yvonne Flores, Councilor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Christina Ballew called the meeting to order.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motioned by Greg Smith, seconded by Chantelle Yazzie-Martin. The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. APPROVAL of January 12, 2023 MINUTES

Motioned by Greg Smith, seconded by Chantelle Yazzie-Martin. The minutes were accepted as presented.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

6. STAFF UPDATE AND ACTION

- Ceci Vasconcellos, Art Project Coordinator
 - Fire Station #3 Art Project
 - ASCMV Art Project
 - Rotating art print process
 - City Art Board Service Terms
 - NMSU Partnership/Internship
 - City Staff Art Exhibit

The Fire Station #3 artist has been in contact. Pictures were sent of the status of the artwork. A variety of major issues have come up delaying the project and an extension through April has been requested: ordered parts were done incorrectly and had to be sent back, major storm in Dallas, and the installer quit so a new installer is needed.

ASCMV the art sculpture is finished. Waiting for the foundation to be installed. The Art Board needs to be aware next time doing this type of project, the RPF was written so the artist was responsible for everything except the installing the pad. The pad needs engineered stamped drawings, soil testing, density testing. And this is causing this to be delayed. Artist was having trouble, so City is working to do the pad. They have received three bids from contactors, two had structural engineers included which the City cannot pay for because the artist is contractually obligated to do that. No timeline as of yet.

Rotating art print process. In the proposal there were not guidelines for taking the artwork and getting it done in the way needed to be in the frames. Like to put temporary art until October until the true launch of the program. Time to test the process and see if it works. Basically, looking for the specs of the actual artwork. How to get it printed? What do you ask for when printed?

CAB service terms. The certificates have a date when the service ends, use that date and not on the website. If Board Member wishes to continue on the Board, please let Christine Rivera know.

NMSU Partnership/Internship. Three Board Members attended the presentation by NMSU. Approximately 18 students and definitely seeing the same issues. This is educational for the students to know about City public art and also helping the City as well. Access will be afforded to the students' presentations. A discussion on the water tanks around town and the issues that have come up. What to do with art that misrepresents or represents a different vantage point from a different period in time? Definition of public art does not mean accessible but does mean viewable. And what does it mean to be public art, as in accessible walk to and touch, only viewable but elevates an area? Discussion on the roadrunner at the rest stop on I-10.

City staff art exhibit. On the second-floor mezzanine is the exhibit. This is a way to recognize City staff. Opening tomorrow 11:30-12:30 for a showing.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- Temporary Public Art Exhibit - Alana Bradley

Alana (Lani) Bradley of Greater Federation of Women's Club, Progress Club of Las Cruces, stated the towers, the 5,000 flowers, was her club. They were supposed to do this at Branigan Library in their outdoor space. She has 632 pinwheels. She is co-chair of child advocacy for her club which is international. They have lots of artists. They are hopeful to be granted permission to put the pinwheels up at one of two locations to signify child abuse awareness and prevention month, April. Half of the pinwheels are paper. Parks and Rec said if they plant them just right it will be fine. They contacted Sunrise Elementary and giving them about 200 to be decorated. Also include signs for the statistics within the Doña Ana County for child abuse and where to seek services if needed. In front of Branigan, Johnson Park, or Women's Pioneer Park. This is called Pinwheels for Prevention which is national. Alana stated they were leaving them up week, but not really worried if the pinwheels are stolen. They will clean up if the wind causes issues. A City proclamation was suggested. Coordination would be with Parks.

Greg Smith moved to approve the Pinwheel for Prevention project, seconded by Chantelle Yazzie-Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

- Klein Park Art Proposal - Diego Medina

Diego Medina was unable to attend today. A revised budget for the proposal was sent to the City. No concepts have been seen by the Board yet. It was mentioned to approve what they have at the moment, but before starting the project, the Board will need to see a concept. Today presented was the project budget. It was noted that there was \$500 mentioned for mural design and maybe Diego Medina is awaiting approval before design. \$500 per week, 25 hours, times 8, \$4,000.

Greg Smith moved to proceed with this project, not a contractual obligation to pay the artist, but also the caveat to see concepts., seconded by Christina Ballew. Motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- "Chalk the Plaza" Planning

Pamphlet discussion. The press release has been sent. March 1st call for artist opens, which has been changed to the 6th. April 1st the call for artists ends. This gives time to look at what was submitted. Changed April 4th to the 7th, and that is when the chosen artists will be notified.

April 29th Chalk the Plaza takes place. 9:00 a.m. set up, beginning of contest 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. end of contest, 7:00 p.m. announce winner. Second page is terms and conditions. Have a supply list. Do a standard block size of 4 x 4, each artist have a tent over themselves. Buckets will be at each tent for people to put in voting tabs. Each artist will get a small bin with specific packs of chalk, spray bottle, art sponge, trash bag, black and white tempera paint. The artists are responsible for additional blending tools, towels, baby wipes, reference images, rulers and measuring tape, knee/wrist protection, finger protection, duct tape, painters' tape, tarps, other additional chalk or tempera paint. Media used other than chalk, will be an immediate disqualification.

Project plan. Plan call for art has been completed. Call for artists on the CLC website, as of yesterday that has been completed. Connect with VLC for award and supplies, in progress. Request to order the supplies and charge back to them. Logo has been sent. Promote the call for artists. Promotional graphics. Divide up the remainder of the work. Solicit volunteers. The volunteer coordinator is trying to organize volunteers, so they all go through an orientation, know what they're doing. Have until the end of March to finish graphics and visual communications. Ceci, Chantelle, and Catrina will meet next week to discuss some of the ideas April 1st call for artists ends. Then need a selection committee of three CAB members. Discussion on possible CAB T-shirts. They do have lanyards. Suggestion of all wearing the same color T-shirt. Melanie Grey Brown and Chantelle Yazzie-Martin are the only ones that currently can be on the selection committee which would be between April 1-4th. Next CAB meeting do final checks. The day before the event may need volunteers to be sure all is ready and need volunteers on the day of the event. April 28th obtain all supplies for day of setup. Cleaning the street. Suggestion that the entire Board be there all day. Also, two hour minimum suggested. Discussion on voting for artists during the Chalk the Plaza. 5:00 p.m. is closing of public vote. Competition for the jury CAB selection ends at 6:00 p.m. Then on stage and announce the winners, and then break down.

Looking at the artwork submissions, concept, complexity, imagination, locality needs to be Las Cruces focused. And then day of submission add quality of rendering of artwork, and completion of the artwork.

- Committee Updates
 - Communication and Public Outreach
 - Research and Development

Possibly doing outreach for CAB and Chalk the Plaza first Friday in March or April, the Fine Arts Flea Market promote for April. It seemed that at the Fine Arts Flea Market, most of the people that came to the table were not artists at the market. Maybe do it at the Farmers Market, broader demographic, on April 1st.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

26 Greg Smith mentioned there is a jazz/classical concert at the Rio Grande Theater in the evening. The Arts Council has its annual Arts Fair at the Convention Center, March 25-16. The arts awards have not been set up yet. Various board members are going to Nienburg, Germany.

Christina Ballew stated her term is up March 31st, will continue with Chalk the Plaza. She will continue as Vice-Chair for the next couple of meetings and then as citizen.

The Board expressed gratitude for Christina Ballew's service.

10. NEXT MEETING – April 13, 2023

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin motioned to adjourn; Christina Ballew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Chairperson