



**Kennewick Arts Commission
Minutes**

**Notice of Special Meeting, Retreat
Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Kennewick City Hall Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 5:12p

2. Roll Call

Present:

Chair Jason Watson
Commissioner Melanie Blatman
Commissioner Dee Boyle
Commissioner McKenzie Kennedy
Commissioner Doug Gast
Vice-Chair Jill Madison

Excused:

Commissioner Kimberly DeWald

Staff:

Rohana Carmichael, Staff Liaison
Miles Thomas, Recorder

3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Gast motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Commissioner Kennedy seconded; all in favor.

4. Approval of April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Boyle motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Commissioner Kennedy; all in favor.

5. Visitors

David Spaulding arrived at 6:45p to provide public comment as an update for the Creative Arts District designation that he is working on. David's summary recapped that the program is based on a Creative Arts District program in Denver, Colorado, and passed the legislature last year to put it into action. The Arts Commission began working on applying, but drew back after some of the depths of details were revealed. David Spaulding picked that opportunity up and began coordinating meetings in the community about what a Creative Arts District would mean, and he is seeking volunteers to participate in curating the plan for the Creative Arts District to apply after the State Coordinator visits again in July.

David provided an update on the planning process, which included that City Council must pass a resolution to designate and create the Creative Arts District for the application to succeed. David noted that the 52k people in the 99336 area code comprises a greater amount of identified creative industry professionals; the average State is comprised of 1%, area code 99336 is comprised of .78%, and the Tri-Cities is comprised of .56%. The planning process will continue through May and June to host meetings throughout the area, and several volunteers have come forward to assist in writing the actual plan.

Commissioner Boyle asked for clarification on what the process is, and what the district would actually provide. David noted that he would pass out or email his handouts for the commission to review.

6. Unfinished Business

a. 4th and Columbia Center Blvd Update

Ms. Carmichael provided an update on the installation of the rabbits on Columbia Center Boulevard.

b. Happy Human Bench Update

Happy Human Benches are scheduled to be installed at Horse Heaven Hills and Lawrence Scott Park, and the Parks Department ended up have enough funds for a third bench. The Parks Director suggests the Arts Commission weigh in on potential locations; Commissioner Boyle suggested it be placed at Sunset Park and Commissioner Gast agreed that they would be great to denote any Kennewick park.

Ms. Carmichael gave a list of parks that had mitigation funds that the bench could be installed at, and gave an update about happy humans being installed as part of signage at the challenge course. All Commissioners agreed a Happy Human bench at Grange Park

would be a suitable location given the amount of foot traffic that park receives. Ms. Carmichael will make a recommendation to the Parks Department.

c. Energize the Art Awards

Commissioner Gast spoke to Pasco Machine, and they said they need more information on exactly what we're looking for as an award. Commissioner Gast is going to take up having a machinist work on another award.

Ms. Carmichael and the Commissioners went through the Energize the Arts nominations and added recommendations.

7. New Business

Quality of Life

a. Art Walk Evaluation

The commissioners discussed that the Art Walk is being mixed with the other activities and there could be more art actually being programmed. Commissioner Gast described a little bit of background on the Art Walk, and the rotation of art walk.

The commissioners discussed some of the ways they may be able to help bring vibrancy back to the Art Walk and encourage artist participation at the series of businesses involved. Commissioner Boyle volunteered to meet with the businesses supporting the event, and helping to coordinate with the artists.

b. Arts Awards

See Item 6.c.

c. Traffic Box Art & PR

Ms. Carmichael showed the commissioners the traffic box wrap installations completed thus far.

Infrastructure & Growth

d. Roundabout Retrofit

Ms. Carmichael reminded the Arts Commissioners about the roundabout event at STCU tomorrow, May 9th, 2019. There may be media at the event that would have questions for the commissioners.

Ms. Carmichael gave an update on funding available to complete up to two roundabout art installations.

e. Fundraising

Commissioner Boyle suggested that we look at other fundraising avenues for continuing arts programming. Specifically, she talked about a monthly donation campaign or similar capital campaign for public arts. Commissioner Boyle expanded on some other events where we may be able solicit sponsors for art based demonstrations they would be able to integrate into the overall event.

f. Grant Opportunities

See Item 5.

Economic Development

g. Art Opportunity Zones

Commissioner Boyle volunteered to take the vacant opportunity zone, Two Canyon Expansion. Vice-Chair Madison will remain on as the Southridge liaison.

h. Workplan

Ms. Carmichael recommended that the Commissioners take a look through the workplan document, and discuss at the next Commission Meeting.

8. Comments

Chair Watson received a call back from Jacob's Radio about an installation in Downtown Kennewick, and he would like to coordinate with the Commission to identify an artist and a piece.

Commissioner Boyle heard back about an Art Night at the Tri-City Americans Games.

Chair Watson mentioned that the skate park in Columbia Park may be a good location for the visitor from last month to do a graffiti wall.

Ms. Carmichael noted that staff is in discussion about moving this Commission meeting to the Keewaydin Community Center.

9. Adjournment

Chair Watson adjourned the meeting at 8:04p.

