



**City Art Board Meeting
February 12, 2019**

The following are minutes for the meeting of the City Art Board held at 10:00 a.m. on February 12, 2019 at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM on the second floor in Las Cruces Conference Room 2007A.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Courtney, Chair
Susan Frary, Secretary
Meg Freyermuth
Edward Schmitt
Robin Hutchins
Susan McNeill

ABSENT:

Ricardo Gonzales, Vice-Chair

OTHERS PRESENT:

Councilor Greg Smith
Garland Courts, City Art Board Liaison
Leticia Soto, Recording Secretary
Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Director
Claudia Chavez, Parks and Recreation Programs Manager
Cathy Mathews, Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL JANUARY 8, 2019 MEETING NOTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the January 8, 2019 meeting notes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. STAFF UPDATE

- Claudia Chavez, Parks & Recreation Programs Manager
- Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect, Public Works Dept.
- Garland Courts
 - Via Partnership visit in January 2019 and upcoming events
 - CaFE Call for City Hall Art

- 1 o *Pride* base staining
- 2 o Arts Coordinator update
- 3 o Openings for City Art Board April 1, 2019
- 4 o DAAC Presentation January 25, 2019

5
6 Garland Courts introduced Claudia Chavez from Parks and Rec.

7
8 Claudia Chavez spoke about the Teen Chaos Collaboration art show at the Frank O'Brien
9 Papen Center 304 W. Bell Street. The show starts Friday, February 22nd
10 and there will be live music by local teens and activities will continue through
11 Saturday, February 23rd.

12
13 Garland Courts introduced Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect.

14
15 Cathy Mathews spoke about a possible new art installation at Calle Abuelo Neighborhood
16 Park. Calle Abuelo is off Northrise Drive and the City plans to make the
17 small lot into a trailhead/nature park there. There are benches, picnic
18 tables, and shade structures in storage not being used at Parks and Rec,
19 and the City intends to install one of those sculptures at Calle Abuelo after
20 reconditioning it. Ms. Mathews indicated that the sculpture the City intends
21 to install has also been in storage for many years. It will be refurbished
22 before installation. The Art Board had questions about the process and
23 Members were interested in the history of the sculpture. The City plans to
24 mount the sculpture on a circular cement block structure that is at ground
25 level. Board Members were concerned about wear and tear on the
26 sculpture if placed in the park, expecting the public to climb on and handle
27 the sculpture and possibly break it. The Board asked if the sculpture could
28 be placed on a taller plinth.

29
30 Sonya Delgado emphasized that the Parks and Rec Department will not install the
31 sculpture at Calle Abuelo if the Art Board does not wish it, that the staff at
32 the Parks and Rec Department had stumbled across the sculpture in
33 storage and they want to clean it up and see it used somewhere. Board
34 Members are excited to work with the Parks and Rec Department to find
35 more artwork that may have been forgotten in storage around the City, and
36 they only wanted to discuss this sculpture to provide additional information
37 that would be of assistance to Parks and Recreation.

38
39 Councilor Smith asked if the neighborhood residents want the sculpture in their park.

40
41 Sonya Delgado discussed that the Art Board is the first group to hear about the sculpture
42 and the Parks and Rec Board will be next, then the public.

43
44 Councilor Smith mentioned that raising the sculpture would place its eyes at normal eye-
45 level for adults.

1 Board Members indicated that Art Board funds may be available to help build a base for
2 the sculpture. Parks and Rec hopes to have the Calle Abuelo
3 Neighborhood Park construction beginning in March and finished in June.
4 The Board invited Parks and Rec staff to return in March for further
5 discussion. The Board recommended that Parks and Rec try to obtain a
6 couple of additional restoration bids because they felt the initial bid is
7 possibly too high. The Board is also interested in helping to fund either the
8 base for the sculpture or the restoration and will wait until the March Board
9 meeting to discuss the sculpture at Abuelo Park.

10
11 The City Art Board is very happy that Sonya Delgado and Cathy Mathews brought forward
12 the Calle Abuelo Neighborhood Park sculpture plan and look forward to
13 future projects with Parks and Recreation.
14

15 Garland Courts mentioned the NMSU Art Conservation Program as another resource for
16 restoring the sculpture. The contact for that program is Sylvia Marinas, and
17 Mr. Courts will get Sonya Delgado that phone number. Edward Schmitt
18 stated that Karen Dean also restores artwork.
19

20 Sonya Delgado mentioned that there are several large art pieces such as the Roadrunner
21 that Parks and Rec maintains. She asked if the Art Board would like to have
22 input when it is time to have the artists maintain the pieces. The Board is
23 interested in hearing updates and appreciate having input. The Art Board
24 is not responsible for Veterans Park because it is a memorial and not an art
25 installation.
26

27 It was mentioned that the Board voted not to put art in the planters in front of City Hall.
28 Sonya Delgado agreed that some agave plants would look nice there.
29

30 Garland Courts discussed Via Partnership's upcoming tour in El Paso on March 27th
31 along with whichever Board Members are interested. The potential NMSU
32 tour of art in public places with Marisa Sage is tentatively scheduled for
33 February 27th or 28th. Board Members indicated preference for Thursday,
34 February 28th in the morning. Via Partnership has almost completed the
35 Beta art survey. It has been reviewed by the CAB Executive Board and will
36 be submitted for review to the City Art Board, the Steering Committee, and
37 the Community Advisory Committee before being sent out to the public. Mr.
38 Courts asked for feedback as well as participation in the survey. There is
39 no progress on staining the base of the Pride sculpture yet. The funds have
40 yet to be transferred to Parks and Rec and Mr. Courts is not sure whether
41 a Parks and Rec staff member will do the work or if a contractor has to be
42 hired. The City has a candidate chosen for the Arts Coordinator position
43 and the candidate is scheduled to start on March 4th. Mr. Courts cannot
44 give the person's name because they are not officially hired yet.
45

1 Rebecca Courtney spoke about finding information on when Board Members' terms end
2 at the City Clerk's site under Boards. Generally, terms end on March 31st
3 each year and Members whose terms are ending this year are Susan
4 McNeill and Rico Gonzales. Susan McNeill stated she would like to remain
5 on the Board for another term. Discussion continued regarding eligibility and
6 finding new Members.

7
8 Garland Courts said he would send paperwork to anyone interested in joining the Art
9 Board. He reported that Rebecca Courtney gave a nice presentation to the
10 Doña Ana Arts Council on Jan. 25 for the public art master plan procedure
11 for Las Cruces.

12
13 Rebecca Courtney reported that Councilor Smith attended the presentation and spoke to
14 the Doña Ana Arts Council about the public art master planning process.
15 Local artists are very interested in participating in public meetings for the
16 public art master plan.

17
18 Garland Courts has attended two Council district meetings, Dist. 6 and Dist. 3, to listen to
19 community input about public art. He hopes to have surveys ready to hand
20 out at public meetings in the future.

21
22 Meg Freyermuth spoke about the Dist. 3 public meeting she attended and that there was
23 talk about placing art at the skate park. There was also discussion
24 regarding lack of landscaping along Solano between Lohman and Missouri.
25 Getting youth involved in public beautification projects was discussed and
26 community art boards for young people to do art on rather than using
27 privately-owned buildings. Suggestions were made for painting dumpsters,
28 utility boxes, and electrical boxes.

29
30 Susan Frary discussed the corner of Solano and North Main with the three crosses and
31 that the crosses need to be refurbished or replaced.

32
33 Garland Courts reported that the contract for CaFE is in Legal right now and will be ready
34 soon.

35 36 **IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

37 **CaFE Call for City Hall Art**

38
39 Rebecca Courtney reported that Meredith McKinley and Aliza Schiff from Via Partnership
40 offered to review the CaFE call as it currently stands and were pleased with
41 it. The semi-finalist stipend concerned them because the stipend is low for
42 people from out of state to compete. Meredith McKinley suggested adding
43 per diem for out-of-state artists. Board Members feel that the stipend is
44 sufficient and the artists should decide for themselves whether they want to
45 come to Las Cruces. Susan Frary suggested online presentations for semi-
46 finalists. Rebecca Courtney prefers in-person presentations. The last e-

1 mail sent to the Board was the final draft of the CaFE call. As soon as the
2 contract is returned from Legal the call can be posted and left open for six
3 weeks. The selection committee needs a local artist and then it will be
4 complete. CaFE is offering a training session for the Art Board.
5

6 **V. BOARD COMMENTS**

7

8 Robin Hutchins is amazed at the description of the City Hall project for the CaFE call and
9 wants to include photos of the site. Mr. Courts stated there will be up to 10
10 jpgs in the Call.
11

12 Edward Schmitt had no comments.
13

14 Meg Freyermuth really enjoyed the hike at Dripping Springs with the guests from Via
15 Partnership even though it was cold out. The sunset was beautiful. Ms.
16 Freyermuth is looking forward to working with Via Partnership.
17

18 Susan McNeill commented she previously thought she would not re-up for the Board but
19 things are so exciting she is reconsidering.
20

21 Susan Frary is very happy except that she is not sure if communication between the Board
22 and Parks and Rec Department is clear. She is excited to work with them.
23

24 Rebecca Courtney wrote a letter to David Dollahon under the requirements of Res. 15-
25 126 requesting funding for CAB for FY2020. Susan Frary requested copies
26 of all letters sent be attached to official records.
27

28 Councilor Smith reminisced his teaching years and discussed "teachable moments" and
29 commented that the Art Board's current activities are building up towards
30 "teachable moments" in the future and how much he appreciates the work
31 being put into the City's Art Master Plan.
32

33 Susan McNeill commented that her son opened a mural of sound and lights in the New
34 York subway over the past weekend.
35

36 Garland Courts reported that Lynn Gallagher, new Quality of Life Department Director,
37 will attend the next meeting as well as the new Arts Coordinator.
38

39 **VI. NEXT MEETING**

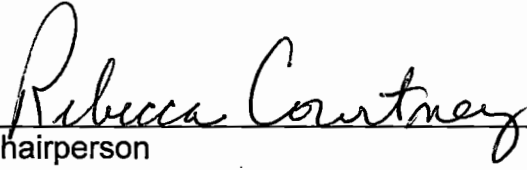
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41 Rico Gonzales requested the next meeting be on a Monday. Several Board members
42 cannot change the day at this time. Rebecca Courtney suggested having
43 him attend by phone. The next meeting will be March 12, 2019 at 10:00
44 a.m. at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM on the second floor in
45 Las Cruces Conference Room 2007A.
46

1 Councilor Smith commented that Virgin Galactic may be interested in partnering with the
2 City Art Board and encouraged thinking outside of the box regarding art.

3
4 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

5
6 It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

7
8
9
10 
11 _____
12 Chairperson