
Minutes
TEMPE MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION
Jan. 9, 2008

Minutes of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission at 6 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2008, at the Tempe Center for the Arts 201 Lounge, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Paul Hubbell, Chair
Linda Sleight, Vice Chair
Robert Bortfeld
Scott Burge
Ed Coyoli
Scott Essex
Betsy Fahlman
Nancy Goren
Donna Goyette
Shirlee King
Richard Strange

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Kate Hanley
Lise Hawkos
Lisa Morley
Chin-an Shen

City Staff Present:

Tom Canasi, Community Services Manager
Don Fassinger, Cultural Facilities Administrator
Rachael Peterson, Cultural Services Division Admin.
Adrienne Richwine, Arts Administrator

Agenda Item 1 – Call to order

Paul Hubbell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Dec. 12 Commission Minutes

Scott Essex stated that he wanted the Dec. 12 commission minutes altered to reflect that he had announced that the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission (TMAC) recommended the following 2008 TMAC Slate of Officers:

Chair – Paul Hubbell
Vice Chair – Linda Sleight

MOTION: Betsy Fahlman moved to approve the minutes (with proposed changes).

SECOND: Linda Sleight seconded.

DECISION: Minutes (with proposed changes) approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Cultural Services Staff Report

- Adrienne Richwine announced that the Tempe Cultural Complex and the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) played host to Tempe Leadership's Art and History Day on Jan. 4. Richwine stated that the leadership group attended several presentations throughout the day, including a hands-on throwing lesson in the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts Ceramics Studio. Richwine added that a city of Tempe Public Art Program PowerPoint presentation was put together and viewed by the leadership group during their luncheon at the Tempe Public Library's Connections Café.

- Richwine announced that the city of Tempe's Art Instructional Program Winter '08 Class Session began on Jan. 7.
- Richwine stated that the Cultural Services Division submitted a grant and received funding for three programs: "Music Under the Stars" will provide a performance outlet for local ensembles; a youth ensemble will foster an atmosphere for Tempe youth that allows its members to build a solid foundation for the development of musicianship skills through side-by-side high school/middle school mentorship opportunities; a "Building Art Skills" partnership with Tempe School District Number Three (TD3) will enhance the development of visual arts aptitude.
- Don Fassinger announced the hiring of Suzanne Durkin-Bighorn; Durkin-Bighorn assumed responsibilities as the TCA Business Development Coordinator on Jan. 7 and will be working primarily with special engagements at the TCA.
- Fassinger stated that the TCA was presently playing host to a three-day seminar facilitated by U.S. Airways. Fassinger added that numerous events have been scheduled at the TCA; the TCA hosted its first wedding reception in the Lakeside Room on Dec. 29.
- Fassinger announced that the TCA partners have submitted their 2008-2009 facility use schedules; second and third holds have been put in place for multiple dates.
- Fassinger stated that the TCA has been visited by several organizations located throughout the country, the most recent being tour groups from Orlando, FL, and Sandy City, UT.
- Fassinger announced that the TCA is playing host to several events in conjunction with nationally and internationally-recognized organizations; the International Association of Assembly Managers, Inc. is holding a reception and an electro-acoustic presentation at the TCA. The National Football League (NFL) has secured a full-facility lease of the TCA for a private, Live Nation evening event related to Super Bowl XLII.
- Ed Coyoli inquired about the high-level of noise that filtered into the TCA 201 Lounge from the TCA Lobby; Fassinger stated that he was in the process of addressing the noise that filters in through the lounge's open spaces.

Agenda Item 4 – Chairperson's Report

- No report; Paul Hubbell introduced Tom Canasi, city of Tempe Community Services Department Manager.
- Betsy Fahlman inquired about the process to fill the vacant Deputy Community Services Manager – Cultural Services Division position; Canasi announced that the candidate interview process was set to begin Jan. 10. A Cultural Services Division employee forum is scheduled to take place Jan. 14. Canasi added that follow-up interviews will take place shortly after the employee forum.

Agenda Item 5a – New Business; Cultural Complex Renovation: Tom Canasi

- Tom Canasi presented information regarding the city of Tempe Cultural Complex, geographically located in the heart of Tempe at 3500 S. Rural Rd. The complex consists of three buildings; the Tempe Public Library, the Tempe Historical Museum and the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts.
- Canasi stated that plans are underway to reshape the complex; presently, the Tempe Historical Museum is being renovated as a means to redefine its internal space. Canasi said that the museum staff would like to include updated technology into their exhibits;

additional technology will allow the museum to tell Tempe's stories in exciting, innovative ways.

- Canasi announced the addition of a community multi-purpose room space at the museum; flexible space will allow for rotating exhibits. A small increase of community space and the redefinition of pre-existing internal space will add to the museum's "wow" factor; the renovation completion date is set for January, 2009.
- Canasi stated that any architectural submittals for the Tempe Public Library renovation process are due by no later than 4 p.m., Jan. 11, to the city of Tempe Community Development Department. Canasi envisions a redefinition of the library's internal space; the lower level may become a children's environment providing several creative outlets.
- Ed Coyoli inquired about the possibility of the Tempe Public Library collaborating efforts with the Phoenix Public Library; Canasi stated that several Tempe Public Library staff members are already attending regular book exchanges and meetings at the Phoenix Public Library.
- Canasi announced the possibility of the library having an area designed solely for teen use, an old world reading room, additional community meeting rooms, an updated program room, additional stacks and intimate reading areas that incorporate visual art.
- Canasi stated that updated gallery lighting on the second floor of the library will help attract patrons to the community gallery exhibitions.
- Canasi announced that a CIP has been submitted for the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts in an effort to redefine its internal space as well as to adhere to ADA rules and regulations. Presently, there is no funding for the Vihel Center renovation process.
- Overall, Canasi said that he'd like to create a complex synergy so that Tempe's Cultural Complex may be widely-recognized as being a hub of culture. Canasi envisions a free, friendly, family environment; three buildings will work together to provide Tempe citizens with art, stories and historical programming that will best meet their needs and improve their quality of life.
- Canasi announced the possibility of presenting a regular series of Friday evening events that may include visual art exhibition openings, guest author presentations, poetry readings, historical presentations and performing arts opportunities. Canasi has a holistic view of the arts and would like the Tempe Cultural Complex area to become part of the surrounding neighborhood fabric with an ultimate goal of making Tempe an art-embracing community that celebrates art.
- Nancy Goren stated that she was concerned that performing arts groups may not be able to afford rehearsal and/or performance space at the TCA.
- Coyoli inquired about the status of the Tempe Performing Arts Center (TPAC). Canasi said that the land will be developed at a date to be determined. Coyoli stated that smaller groups utilize TPAC for rehearsal space; Goren reaffirmed that community groups need to have rehearsal and performance space.
- Goren asked if there are any scheduled meetings set to take place that allow for public input regarding the Vihel renovation; Canasi stated that meetings will be scheduled for public input.

Agenda Item 5b – New Business; TMAC Committee Preference Form

- Paul Hubbell reminded the commission members that their 2008 Committee Preference Form was in their meeting packet and requested that each member fill out the form at their earliest convenience and submit the form to Adrienne Richwine or Rachael

Peterson after the conclusion of the TMAC meeting. The 2008 TMAC committees, as well as the addition of any new TMAC members, will be announced at the TMAC meeting taking place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 13 in the TCA 201 Lounge.

Agenda Item 6a – Public Art/AIPD Committee

- Betsy Fahlman announced that the city of Tempe Cultural Services Division, in conjunction with the Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board Committee, is considering an art piece in the Double Butte Cemetery that includes a stand and wind chimes. The sale of the memorial wind chimes will be refunded to the city of Tempe. Fahlman expressed an interest in the project because of its ability to demonstrate how art can tell a historical story.
- Fahlman encouraged the commission members to view Joan Baron's artist-adorned standpipes in the Mitchell Park East Neighborhood. Fahlman stated that the standpipes, located at the corner of Ninth and Wilson streets, have received positive publicity. The project, a result of a city of Tempe neighborhood grant, is a positive addition to the neighborhood.

Agenda Item 7b– Grants Committee

- No new business; Linda Sleight stated that the Grants Committee will review changes made to a previously-funded arts project grant submitted by Broadmor Elementary School at the regularly-scheduled Grants Committee meeting taking place at 4 p.m. on Jan. 14 in the Tempe Public Library Board Room.

Agenda Item 7c– Communications/Advocacy Committee

- Donna Goyette distributed press materials to the TMAC members.

Agenda Item 7d– Facilities Committee

- No new business.

Agenda Item 8 – Commission Member's Comments/Questions

- Scott Essex stated that he approached the Friends of TCA regarding the commission's concerns regarding the Friends of TCA membership costs. Linda Sleight originally expressed a concern that the Gold (Individual) Membership monetary requirement may be too high. Sleight added that the Tempe community members who view the membership as being too costly may feel removed from the community aspect of the TCA.
- Essex stated that initially, the membership costs were established as a means to bring in a large amount of money in a short amount of time. Essex added that the rate structure will not remain as is; the Friends of TCA will review and adjust the rate structure.
- Scott Burge announced that Virginia Tinsley, a former TMAC Chair and an outstanding arts advocate for the Tempe Community, passed away Jan. 2. Burge inquired about naming a program or service of the city of Tempe Cultural Services Division in honor of Tinsley; Tom Canasi stated that the Tempe City Council is responsible for naming programs and services in honor of Tempe community members.
- Don Fassinger added that a memorial service for Virginia Tinsley is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Jan. 24 at the TCA.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Feb. 13 in the TCA 201 Lounge, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Rachael A. Peterson

Reviewed by: Adrienne Richwine

 / chair

Authorized Signature
Position/Title