



Approved Minutes

BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

August 10, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

City of Flagstaff – Microsoft Teams Remote Meeting

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Carrie Nelson at 928-213-2919 (or 774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

City Staff: Eliza Kretzmann – Staff Liaison, Jana Weldon – Project Administrator, Creag Znetko – Recording Secretary

The Public is Invited to Attend this Remote Meeting: Please join us via Microsoft Teams by clicking on the following link, which brings you to the live meeting. [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#). Please turn your camera off and mute your microphone except when speaking. If you need an invitation to the meeting, email cznetko@flagstaffaz.gov prior to 3:45 pm on Monday, July 13.

Provide Public Comment Prior to the Meeting: Email eliza.kretzmann@flagstaffaz.gov with your public comment prior to 3:45 pm on the Monday of the meeting and it will be read during the public comment section or during the item to which your comment pertains.

A. CALL TO ORDER Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

B. ROLL CALL:

Anthony Garcia, Chair, [present](#)
Sandra Lubarsky, Vice-Chair, [present](#)
George Averbeck, [present](#)
J Michael Cruz, [Joined at 4:07 pm](#)

Carla McCord, [present](#)
Jeremy Slater, [present](#)
Kraig Weber, [present](#)

C. UPCOMING EVENTS

[Commissioner Averbeck Aug 29, Museum of Northern Arizona Gala, silent auction, community event.](#)

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or acting on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commissioners may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. Public comment should be sent to eliza.kretzmann@flagstaffaz.gov, prior to 3:45 p.m. on the day of the meeting or during the designated public participation section.

NONE

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July Meeting

[MOTION: Vice Chair Lubarsky moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Slater seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.](#)

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

i. Welcome Erin Kaczmarowski, our new AmeriCorps VISTA member! Erin grew up in Glendale, Arizona, and attended Northern Arizona University to study Environmental Science and

Biology. She will be working with our team on Arts, Sciences, Beautification and STEM-related activities.

Staff introduced our new VISTA member, Erin Kaczmarowski, as she will be working with the Beautification, Arts & Sciences program. The commission then introduced themselves and welcomed Erin to the program.

G. ACTION ITEMS

A. No action items.

NONE

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Downtown Connection Center Project Overview**— Kate Morley, Deputy General Manager, Mountain Line; Jana Weldon, Beautification, Arts & Sciences Project Administrator, City of Flagstaff

Suggested Discussion: After the presentation on the parameters of the project by Kate Morley, and design team approach and funding overview by Jana Weldon, give ideas and thoughts for this civic space and the beautification project(s) that could be achieved with available funding. This project was formally titled Transportation Hub in planning documents.

Staff briefed the commission on the call to artists that should go out at the beginning of September. Kate Morley presented to the commission about the Mountain Line Downtown Connection Center. Ridership has improved by 150% and has maxed out the current space. Would like space to grow more, employee restrooms/breakroom, public restrooms, lost and found storage, and other amenities for the community. Hope to partner with AMTRAK in the future. Design options were shown to the commission as well. At the beginning stage for concept design in 2020 and final design 2021. Construction 2022-2023. Two FTA grants will help to fund this project. Next steps include permits and land acquisition and then concept development with public involvement. Would like to incorporate public art at the beginning of this project. Staff thanked the presenter for reaching out so early in the project. Staff then went through the process of selecting an artist, the budget available, and a national RSOQ that will be out in the beginning of September.

Commissioner Webber: Early concept design, how will the space remain active and programmed? Would not like another amphitheater, playground could facilitate more natural art than plastic and aluminum equipment.

Commissioner Cruz: Likes that we will be using the space more than what is currently being used.

Commissioner Averbeck: Can we combine a parking lot and connection center into one? We should slow down and look at the whole picture for parking and transportation issues.

Vice Chair Lubarsky: Thank you for getting us in early in the project. Public art is specific work, but we have a chance to be involved in the beautification of the building, like the design of the interior including flooring, seating and other aspects of the interior.

Staff stated that all should be integrated not a stand alone public art piece. Has experience in writing call to artists that can include these aspects. Staff is confident that should be covered.

Commissioner McCord: Would like to see a gathering space for families for four seasons.

Chair Garcia: Appropriately write the call. Think outside the box for an amphitheater. A more welcoming space for our transient population. This area will look different in the next ten years so it would behoove us to keep some of the culture we have now.

There was discussion only.

B. Flagstaff Downtown Vision and Action Plan Update - JJ Folsom, P.U.M.A.

Suggested Discussion: Provide questions and comments to P.U.M.A. regarding the Downtown Vision Plan and to P.U.M.A. and City staff regarding the Expanded Use of Right-of-Way (EUROW) project.

Staff introduced the company awarded the Downtown Vision and Action Plan.

PUMA, Progressive Urban Management Associates, presented to the commission the completed to date plan. Over 30 stakeholder interviews, property owners, elected officials and meetings with the FDBA board and Community Advisory Committee. Prepared existing study area 3d mapping diagram, initial ParkFlag roll out recommendations, and online surveys.

Vision Elements/Emerging Themes: Flagstaff would like to see a downtown that is acceptable to all.

Economy; supporting primary job growth, encourage downtown housing, strengthen storefront economy and guide downtown's emergence from pandemic closures.

Experience; Public space improvement and activation strategy, cultivate local arts and culture, parking management and mobility, and enhancing gateways into downtown.

Environment; preserving historic character, improve pedestrian and bicycle connections within downtown, activate alleyways and other underutilized spaces while embracing sustainability as a core value in how downtown is managed.

Implementation; collaboration between public and private sectors, clear path through regulatory processes and empower and diversify funding to the DBA.

Environment and Urban Design; zoning, land use, historic character and activation.

Would like to preserve the character while understanding the historic buildings are the most used.

Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse; will help calibrate rules and regs

Activation of the plan is key, and artists will be needed. Looking for key opportunity sites.

Expansion plan for downtown for reopening in the age of Covid; closing one lane of Aspen Ave and using the street for seating for restaurants.

Will be in Flagstaff at the end of August.

Staff added that expanded use of right of way has been keeping staff busy and is able to stretch some of the flower project budget and has allowed us to test some of the EUROW concepts. Staff also would like to thank PUMA for a donation to the DBA.

Chair Garcia stressed the importance of utilizing the survey for folks that may not have access to internet.

Staff reminded the commission about the other projects that are ongoing in the downtown area and shared experience with installing public art in empty storefronts to keep them activated.

Commissioner Averbeck: A lot of one-story buildings, don't have upstairs housing, not a lot of people live in downtown. Traffic flow is interesting with traffic patterns, utilizing some streets as walking malls is a good idea, has seen more pedestrian flow in the past few months.

Commissioner Cruz: Has seen a difference in the downtown area, looking forward to watching this unfold.

Commissioner McCord: Is a fan of the parking program.

Commissioner Slater: Likes that we have other eyes on the project. Public input is vital.

Vice Chair Lubarsky: thinks it's wonderful and likes the project, stressed the importance of input especially from the elderly population. Maybe a Flagstaff promenade as a civic space that is not just about economics downtown.

Chair Garcia: not just pushing for the economic benefits, to think progressively, and valuing the sustainability component not just tourism.

Terry Madeksza: The expanded use of public space is not done, the outdoor seating is for public health guidelines, and to help the local business owners to keep afloat. More seating and umbrellas are being added soon. The DBA is seeking input from the public as well and will present to the commission in the future.

There was discussion only.

- C. **Recession Budget Implications** – Staff was asked to provide one-time line-item cuts for \$315,000 from our Arts and Sciences 5-year-plan and \$160,000 from our Beautification 5-year-plan to meet anticipated budget shortfalls due to the recession. The Beautification shortfall can be covered by an existing 'future projects' line item with robust funding; however, the Arts and Sciences budget will need to cut from capital art projects or other existing line items in the 5-year-plan.

Suggested Discussion: Staff will present proposed items for the Arts and Science budget cuts, based on items that are not currently underway, items that have been a lower priority for the Commission and city leadership in the past, or larger-amount line-items that may have more room for reduction; we welcome feedback on these items.

Staff updated the commission on the recession plans that need to be addressed within the 5-year plan. Staff presented to the commission some projects that could potentially receive a reduction in funding.

Vice Chair Lubarsky: Would like to avoid cutting the city hall lawn project and the indigenous project. What if we took \$80k from the lunar landing project? All commissioners agree with this recommendation.

EV Director asked about the priority of the list and staff responded that it is not in order but will prioritize.

Commissioner Averbeck: Would like to remove the water tank project. Wipe out this list and keep the lunar landing funded.

There was discussion only.

H. TO/FROM ITEMS

A. City Staff To/From and Updates:

Alley Activation Project – working on immediate ideas for temporary art with our Heritage Preservation staff. For the longer-term alley vision, we plan to work on this again this fall.

Staff has been working with the HPC and engineering teams on the integrity of the historic buildings to ensure safety.

B. Chair To/From and Updates

NONE

C. BPAC – update on communication with other Commissions?

NONE

D. City Council Liaison Updates

Will resume City Council Meetings on Aug 18.

E. Additional To/From Items from the Commission?

NONE

F. Requests for future agenda items?

Vice Chair Lubarsky: We have some important projects and would like to be kept up to date.

I. AGENDA ITEMS AND TIME/DATE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next meeting date:

- Monday, September 14, 2020, 4 pm Teams Meeting

J. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:03 pm.