

City of Prescott

Civic Enhancement Committee



March 28, 2024 | 2:30 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Sarah Siep called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Susan Wiens - Chair
Christopher Briggs - Member
Timothy Holt - Member
Linda Nichols - Member
George Snyder - Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Introduction of Staff, Members & Overview of Functions and Focus of the Civic Enhancement Committee.

Ms. Siep provided a presentation to the Committee with an overview of the founding Resolution and discussed the duties of the group. She welcomed new members and stated that upcoming meetings would be discussed later in the meeting, but the group is scheduled to meet once per quarter and to conduct a special meeting for the review of Annual Acker Trust Grant applications in May of each year as well.

This item was for discussion only. No formal action was taken.

B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Acker Trust Grant Processes.

Administrative Supervisor Michelle Stacey-Schroeder provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the Acker Trust Grant Process. A great sum of money and properties were left to the city when JS Acker passed away with the concept of promoting parks and enhancing music for the children of this community. Applications are received annually from local non-profits and the Committee will be responsible for reviewing these applications. There is a filing period then applications are reviewed along with the financial documents from the Finance Department and then determinations are made regarding the award of the grants. The process includes the application, budget report, financial statements and then a determination from the Committee. She will be present to go over the applications. Only given out the interest and not the principle typically.

Ms. Siep handed out the application packets that have been posted for the public over the last month. She informed the Committee that the filing period will be open through Friday, April 12 and they will convene in May to review and make determinations regarding awarding funds.

Chair Weins asked what the Committee Members can do to familiarize themselves with the Acker Trust.

Ms. Stacey-Schroeder stated that the portion of the will that pertains to this is included in the packet but she is also available to answer questions related to the item. She added that the Acker Music Showcase in December is not related to this grant process.

Member Nichols stated that she was on this team for several years and highlighted the importance of the will, she thanked staff for the presentation and asked for confirmation that she will be present for the application review meeting as well.

Ms. Stacey-Schroeder confirmed that she will be and that there is a ranking process that the Committee goes through to determine how the applications are ranked.

Recreation Services Director Joe Baynes added that there is approximately \$560,000 in the account and there has typically been about \$15,000 annually to disburse to local non-profits.

This item was for discussion only. No formal action was taken.

C. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Grant Funded Project Opportunities.

Environmental Coordinator Matt Kileen provided a presentation regarding a grant to improve grant funding from ADEQ for water quality and community health. Staff would like to solicit feedback from the Committee about these types of funding opportunities and projects. He also welcomed Kieran Sikdar, Director of Green Infrastructure with West Consultants who has worked with the city on this.

Why:

- * Surface Water Quality
- * Supports Elements from the General Plan and Strategic Plan
- * Not new to Prescott, but the community can do it better and smarter

Mr. Sikdar discussed the GSI Prioritization Tool used to rank the potential projects and discussed healthy landscape benefits. The goal is to support the economy of the community through sustainable, restorative, regenerative, green and conventional programs and design.

Stormwater Infrastructure Park:

- * Infrastructure focused on human, animal, and plant health (irrigation water treatment, chemical vs biological management)
- * Not giving up anything
- * More robust, lush vegetation of all types including turf, trees, etc.
- * Right plant and right place
- * Maximize rainwater and stormwater benefits
- * Lower cost and lower labor
- * Long-term human health benefits

Mr. Kileen said this is mostly informative and would be hopeful in integrating all of this into the structure for Recreation Services in Prescott. Grant will also position staff to seek additional funding for future projects.

Member Briggs asked about water and recharge.

Mr. Kileen discussed recharge at the reclaim center and how water from varying distances can have different quality. Many of the plants on pallets have processes that pull pollutants out of streams so they don't continue downstream. Basically mini water quality treatment plants at each section.

Member Nichols asked about water catchment basins that were placed at Acker Park years ago and asked how this impacts these types of projects.

Mr. Kileen responded that those facilities reduce funding and help to enhance water quality elements as it goes downstream. It has also impacted the width of the flood plain that FEMA recognizes which is great. He did a review of the aerators that were placed in Watson Lake to circulate water to help generate additional oxygen throughout the lake. Good feedback has been received from the public to date as well and provides a great eco-tourism benefit.

This item was for discussion only. No formal action was taken.

D. Review, Discussion & Possible Action Regarding a Proposal for a Bust Sculpture Honoring "Wish Man" Frank Shankwitz.

Mr. Baynes introduced Mr. Shankwitz's widow Kitty to address the Committee regarding this proposal.

Mrs. Shankwitz discussed her husband who passed away three years ago. He loved this place, spent his youth here and is buried here. Mr. Shankwitz created Make-a-Wish 40-years ago and they have been working on this project for three years now. She introduced Team Wish Man Lead Joe Bagley to provide a presentation regarding the sculpture.

Mr. Bagley provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the creation of Make-a-Wish in 1980. Mr. Shankwitz passed in 2021 and the group wants to fittingly honor him with a statue in the Courthouse Plaza.

Summary:

- * Honor Frank with a monument in the City
- * Local hero from Prescott & Yavapai County who made a worldwide positive impact
- * Great opportunity for the community to highlight Mr. Shankwitz
- * There is a strong and growing backing behind the effort
- * Established team with a strong proposal

Impact of Mr. Shankwitz:

- * True Prescott humanitarian
- * Created Make-a-Wish in 1980
- * Brought cheer to children who were diagnosed with life threatening illnesses by

granting their wishes

- * Overcame a rough childhood & focused life on doing good
- * Many notable awards, served on boards/committees and had a lifetime of public service
- * Resident since the age of 14
- * Reserve detective, Arizona DPS, Yavapai County Mounted Sheriff's Posse member, Western Heritage Foundation, Board of Directors USVets

The Plan:

- * Dedicated and skilled team with a monument plan
- * Sculptor Bill Nebecker and General Contractor Chuck Merritt
- * Planning radio interviews, local press releases and social media
- * Showed a rendering of the proposed monument for the north east side of Plaza on Cortez by Gurley next to the bus stop across from Bill's Pizza

Mr. Bagley stated that this location is within the city's jurisdiction and is on city property, he also read excerpts from letters received by the group in support of Mr. Shankwitz and showed a video from a local Wish recipient family.

Ms. Siep reviewed the art donation process and stated that generally this process begins once art has been created and can be donated.

Mr. Baynes suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to Council that the art sculpture be accepted once completed.

Mr. Bagley commented that it would be difficult to open up a 501(c)(3) if they don't have a project. He added that the group is looking for permission to proceed but don't have the funds to hire designers as of yet.

Deputy City Attorney Matt Podracky stated that the Committee could make a recommendation to the Council and added that generally the Art Donation Agreement would have additional details regarding the piece being donated. However, it could be forwarded to Council with the renderings with a recommendation if that is what the Committee would like to do.

Mary Nebecker addressed the Committee regarding a mockup of the Ernest A. Love statue, which was reviewed by the Council and approved. She and her husband would like to do something similar to that.

Member Briggs thanked the group for bringing this forward.

MOTION BY MEMBER BRIGGS TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED "WISH MAN" SCULPTURE TO BE PLACED AT THE PROPOSED LOCATION; SECONDED BY MEMBER NICHOLS: PASSED (5 - 0)

E. Consideration, Discussion & Possible Action Regarding an Art Donation from Marcella Hirschy for the Granite Creek Trail.

Member of the Granite Creek Trail Art Project Group Barbara Nelson addressed the Committee regarding the proposed art donation. They recently completed the Granite Creek Mural to enhance the corridor, and it is their desire to see

additional art in the area. Proposed sculptures have been donated by the artists' wife for placement in the area. Ms. Nelson reviewed the packet provided to members regarding the "sculpture walk". There is a floodplain which covers many of the lots in the area but not the one where they are proposing placing the sculptures. They would be anchored on concrete pads and the group will work with all city departments to appropriately place.

Local Artist Meriam Foster addressed the Committee regarding the importance of art in a community.

Citizen Donna Hannah addressed the Committee promoting this project. She discussed her appreciation of art and added that this is one portion of corridor that could still use some beautification and a sculpture park or contemplative garden would be wonderful there.

Mr. Nelson clarified that the location would be west of the Hilton Garden Inn at the southern end of Sam Hill Warehouse, which is the first large open space along the creek.

Ms. Nelson added that the group wants to provide quiet, calm places surrounding the park as well.

Mr. Baynes addressed the Committee and provided additional context regarding this proposal. He thanked the Nelsons for their work on the mural project and echoed comments around art in the community, however, he has some concerns regarding the flood plain and location of these sculptures as well as graffiti issues that could come about from this. He added that there is an emotional attachment to art and he would see this as an attractive nuisance which concerns him because it would be his responsibility to protect and honor the donation.

Ms. Nelson stated that Mr. Baynes did address these concerns with them, she added that there is graffiti protection which they used for the Granite Creek Mural project and that would be used on these sculptures as well.

Member Nichols commented that it appears these are off the trail and asked if walkways would be established to get to the artwork. She commented that the sculptures at Yavapai College are very accessible and monitored but these seem to be further away.

Ms. Nelson responded that there are gazebos where they would be viewable from. People will be able to see them, and she doesn't anticipate that they will be hidden in any way but needed to bring them out of the floodplain. She believes this is the best place for people to see them.

Mr. Nelson added that the slope from the back of Sam Hill Warehouse is not walkable to the sculptures as a walkway, but would be able to see the sculptures from above, and the Granite Creek Trail is 10-feet below the art. The sculptures are steel and very durable ranging from 4 ft to 7 ft in height.

Member Briggs asked if there would be lighting at night to showcase the

sculptures.

Mr. Baynes stated there is no lighting in the gazebos. He feels this is a great project but doesn't think this is the right place.

Chair Wiens commented that perhaps everyone could be on the same page if there was lighting in a more appropriate spot.

Ms. Nelson responded that they are open to looking at that, and also willing to look at other locations.

Member Nichols stated that she knows the art is beautiful, and she would like to see it in a more prominent place where everyone could see it.

Chair Wiens concurred, it would enhance the area but the trails are not accessible to all citizens and that is a problem for her.

Member of the public Bob Parker stated that the city invested money in enhancements to the Granite Creek Corridor and the mural is a special feature for this town. The attraction and increased use of this trail is beneficial to this city, and placement of this art could lead to additional art being placed in this area.

Member of the public Jonathan Decker addressed the Committee stating that if this area were lit it would be a good location because of the proximity to the Hotel, Founding Fathers etc.

Member Nichols said it would be worth going out and looking at the location, she loves the idea of the art but would like to make sure it is placed in the right area.

Chair Wiens thanked the group for their presentation.

MOTION BY CHAIR WIENS TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THIS ITEM UNTIL THEY CAN WALK THE LOCATION AND THAT THE ITEM BE BROUGHT BACK FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING; SECONDED BY MEMBER HOLT: PASSED (5 - 0)

Mr. Podracky added that Resolution No. 4279-1488 addresses how to consider art donations and what types of art can be considered and accepted. Staff can provide this document to the Committee when they return to discuss this at a future meeting.

Ms. Siep concurred and added that she will coordinate on scheduling a walk-through of the location prior to the next quarterly meeting in June.

4. UPDATES

A. Staff Announcements & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Ms. Siep discussed the quarterly meetings and suggested scheduling the next meeting in June.

Committee consensus to do so.

Member Nichols asked about the review of the Acker Board grant applications and how many meetings will be held for that.

Ms. Siep and Mr. Baynes responded that the Acker meetings will be outside of the quarterly meetings. It will be one additional meeting in May after the application filing period has closed. Staff will also schedule the walk through for the proposed location for the sculptures.


5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Wiens adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.



SUSAN WIENS, Chair

ATTEST:



Staff Liaison
(Maribay Whisenand)