



City of Prescott

Civic Enhancement Committee

March 20, 2025 | 3:30 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wiens called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Susan Wiens, Chair
Christopher Briggs, Member
Timothy Holt, Member (Excused)
Linda Nichols, Member
George Snyder, Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the December 19, 2024 Civic Enhancement Committee Meeting Minutes.

MEMBER BRIGGS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY MEMBER NICHOLS: PASSED (4-0)

- B. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding a Proposed Sculpture Donation from Arliss Newcomb.

Senior City Clerk Specialist Marikay Whisenand introduced the item up for consideration of recommendation, a request from sculptor Arliss Newcomb to donate two large sculptures to the city for display at the Prescott Public Library. One sculpture, titled "Proud Bloom", features a four-foot-tall base carved from travertine, with a steel stem and leaves, and an 18-inch flower crafted from Italian marble. The other, titled "Abundance", stands three feet tall and is carved from Indiana limestone, with beans made from Persian travertine and a serpentine base. She explained that the Committee is tasked with deciding whether to recommend the City Council accept or not accept the donation and placement of these sculptures, in accordance with the City's Art Donation Policy.

Ms. Newcomb noted that the area of interest for the sculpture at the library is near the bookstore, inside the building. She clarified that the donation being requested is just for the one sculpture, titled "Proud Bloom," which has an approximate value of \$4,000.

Ms. Newcomb responded that she hadn't considered other locations, as she had hoped for the library.

Member Briggs suggested checking with area colleges as potential locations for the donation, noting that the location doesn't necessarily need to be limited to city property.

Recreation Services Administrative Supervisor Michelle Stacy-Schroeder, suggested that the airport could be another potential location for the donation.

Member Nichols recommended obtaining an approval letter from the airport if that location is considered.

Chair Wiens requested a legal opinion on the action to be taken.

Mr. Podracky advised that the artist could either withdraw their request or allow the Committee to proceed with recommending acceptance or non-acceptance of the donation.

Ms. Newcomb commented that she was officially withdrawing the request.

Mr. Podracky advised her that she could bring the request forward again at a later time.

Applicant withdrew donation request. No formal action was taken.

4. UPDATES

A. Presentation & Update from Director Joe Baynes Regarding the Recreation Services Department.

Ms. Stacy-Schroeder provided an update on behalf of Recreation Services Director, Joe Baynes.

- The Bean Peaks Trails Phase Two has been completed, totaling six miles of trails.
- Three miles of trails in the Granite Park area have recently been completed.
- The Department is gearing up for spring sports, with staff particularly busy as late winter and early spring are the busiest times of the year.
- The Special Event season has been the busiest in recent years, with six new events scheduled for March and April. The largest event is the Whiskey Off Road, set for the end of April.

Member Nichols asked about the weight of the item.

Ms. Newcomb responded that it weighed approximately two hundred pounds.

Deputy City Attorney Matt Podracky, asked about the other sculpture, "Abundance," requesting clarification on the plans for it, since it is no longer part of today's request.

Ms. Newcomb responded that it would likely be donated to a local hospital.

Library Director Melissa Orr commented that while the library is a strong supporter of the arts, with over 150 pieces displayed both inside and outside the facility, there is currently no suitable space to accommodate artwork of this size. She explained that, based on community feedback, the library's focus is currently on expanding spaces to better serve patrons requesting study rooms and to provide additional programming spaces for all ages. She also noted that ongoing maintenance and repair costs for other displayed items are a contributing factor in this decision. Ms. Orr commented that the library would like to decline the donation at this time. She explained that the library would prefer to evaluate the existing pieces in their collection before considering new donations, and then revisit opportunities with future artists.

Member Briggs asked if there was an evaluation plan in place and whether any additional art donation pieces were currently in storage.

Ms. Orr responded that a formal evaluation plan is not yet in place, as additional information is needed on some of the pieces. She also clarified that there are no items currently being stored, and that the art collection is a bit eclectic, as the prior process was to accept all donations offered. For future donations, creating a better process would be beneficial.

Ms. Newcomb asked about where to donate the item, if the library is not an option, and what the next steps were.

Mr. Podracky referred to the Art Donation Policy and explained that a 60-day public comment period could be initiated regarding the proposed donation within one week of today's Committee recommendation. Any public comments received during this period would be collected and compiled, along with the recommendation regarding acceptance or non-acceptance of the artwork, with presentation to City Council to follow. He concluded by quoting, "*...following review and examination of the artwork and donation proposal, the Civic Enhancement Committee shall make a recommendation to the City Council regarding acceptance or non-acceptance of the artwork, placement and cost of the artwork, and responsible party for any ongoing maintenance costs to be considered at the next available Voting Meeting following a 60-day public comment period.*"

Member Nichols asked Ms. Newcomb if she was open to considering another location for the donation, specifically referencing galleries inside performing arts centers.

- Since January, staff have been working with an AmeriCorps group of eight members, which has been a huge asset to the city. The group has been working alongside trail specialists, lake specialists, and Environmental Program Manager, Matt Killeen, as well as assisting with the Outdoor Education Program.

Member Nichols asked if Ms. Stacy-Schroeder was involved with the Rodeo Parade.

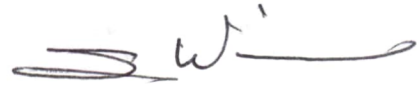
Ms. Stacy-Schroeder explained the Special Event process, detailing her role in working with event promoters, addressing health and public safety concerns, and handling street closures. She also mentioned having monthly meetings with staff from multiple departments.

Additionally, it was noted that the annual Veterans Day Parade is a city event.

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

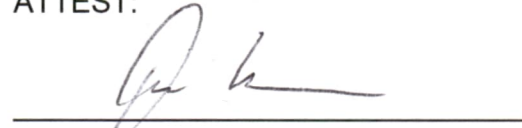
5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Wiens adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.



SUSAN WIENS, Chair

ATTEST:



Staff Liaison