

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Arts Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. 3rd St, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901.

ROLL CALL:

Sid Bryan, Tourism - Chairman
Cary "Jagger" Gustin, Sierra County Arts Council – Vice-Chairman
Eduardo Alicea, Art Representative
Andy Underwood, Business Community – Arrived at 4:05 pm
Suzanne Carlstedt, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Whithead – City Manager
Katy Martinez – Deputy Clerk

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chairman Gustin made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. April 15, 2025

Vice-Chairman Gustin made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute rule applies)

There were no public comments at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/Action: Geronimo Springs Museum Fountain

Manager Whitehead: I have struggled to find an engineering firm that will come in and assess the piece of art from a perspective of whether it is condemned or not. I met with a firm. They came to examine it. They took pictures we crawled inside of it. We have seen damage. The inside is completely rusted. I spoke with Andy about 10 days ago and my thought would be instead of trying to get an engineer to look at it. Maybe we take a look at it from the perspective of how can we fix it. Should we put out a request for proposal and maybe get a contractor that would come in and look at it to say what could we do to repair it. I think the

point would be potentially we should come at from a different angle which is let's try to find a contractor that can come in and tell us how we can repair it versus weather or not its condemned. I think that is where we are is what would a contractor say if I did this we can repair it. Could we fill the cavity with some kind of a fill so kind of flowable fill that would eliminate the space and protect it in its structure. Would the artist come back and look at it consult us, help us take it down and potentially rebuild it. It feels like we should make one of those 2 choices because the rest of the park appears to be in good order. The flagstone is great, the benches could easily be repaired with some new stucco work. It's just deciding what to do inside those cavities. I would like to hear some dialog or thoughts on that process.

Member Carlstedt: If you put out a request for proposal are you asking the answer to be this is what you would do or this is what it would cost or both?

Manager Whitehead: I think all of the above. Somebody with the technical skills of a contractor to come in. Andy has some of that he has given some of his opinion but he is cautious he serves on the board as well. A contractor can come in and say if we did this. This would be the result something like that and the cost associated with it.

Chairman Bryan: Andy do you have any recommendations?

Member Underwood: I'm on the same page as Manager Whitehead, I think it could be repaired. I have also talked to my tile people a little bit about it. We have 2 problems we have the inside structure which I think the line of thought that Manager Whitehead is perfect for that. We could fill it and take away the problem if structural integrity and then the outside I look at it like a big tile job. I haven't heard from tile guy but I asked him to go by and take a look at it as far as regrouting it and sealing it and giving us a product that the city can use on it yearly to seal it. Also of course the water that is in the spring box we know that will work if we get the right pump together and we know we have a local guy that can do that for us. Eddy Irwin was there with us last year and he said he could work with his pump people and put together a pump system that would draw the right amount of water instead of too much or too little. I think if the city gave us permission to pursue that I think it would be doable. I agree with Manager Whitehead also that the rest of the park is magnificent. The flagstone is beautiful worth a lot of money maybe we can figure out a way when we are repairing it to put up some kind of a shade over it so it could be a little more useful to the rest of the city. I don't know where we go from here but the next time we meet I'll have quotes from my tile guy. I don't know if that is appropriate for me to do without the city's permission or not.

Manager Whitehead: I can't necessarily hire them but I think if we begin to discuss what those costs would be.

Member Underwood: The one I talk to has a GB98 in the state of New Mexico so he can easily become a vendor for the city.

Manager Whitehead: We would prepare a request for proposal and do it qualifications based. We would say we are looking for someone to come in and propose repairs to this structure, making it permanent and doing some of these things. Then we go look at everyone that applies and then pick one and potentially negotiate. There are some rules with in procurement and construction that we could do.

Member Underwood: If you hire a contractor to suggest to you how to repair it are you going to ask for some kind of extra ordinary warranty from them? The state of New Mexico requires contractors to warranty work for one year.

Manager Whitehead: In my mind I wouldn't pursue it to be any different then a construction project how do we do it. I even though I know the artist isn't capable but the artist can consult and say if you guys did these things it would be better and then we would find that. I think it would be not less then the year warranty but we have to be cautious. Andy cant help me come up with all the concepts to do and then bid on it. I would have to figure it out on my own and we would want to keep it very open and vague so that everyone can participate. That is where we would get into trouble is you design the repair and then you bid on it and you win the bid. That's not open procurement. I don't see those being problems.

Member Underwood: I cant bid cause im on the board right?

Manager Whitehead: Right, I would rather have our consulting expertise. I think that is the better way to go then again trying to get an engineer and spend the money there. I requested an engineer to help me with a sewer problem and I just got the quote its been 2 months that I have been waiting and those quotes are like 6 to 8 thousand dollars. That is a simple sewer. I think we can spend \$10,000 to get an opinion and I bet we can spend 30 or 40 thousand dollars and probably fix the piece of art.

Member Carlstedt: What is underneath the structure? What kind of material are we talking about possibly filling? Would there be any danger?

Manager Whitehead: It looks like they built it with a rebar. They must have pour concrete and they stuck rebar up where they could bind it and mold it into the shape that they have and they put rebar across.

Member Carlstedt: I'm talking about below ground level.

Manager Whithead: I don't know what is below ground level.

Member Underwood: I don't believe there is any kind of a structural footing or anything like that. Its very lightweight. That's a good point though because if you filled it with concrete you might not have enough foundation to hold it up.

Manager Whitehead: It would be a pretty big rock then.

Member Underwood: But at the same time they make lightweight concrete it would just be up to somebody that could make it flow into that hole.

Manager Whitehead: It could be sand, I suggested we make a hole in the top and fill it and now its just sitting on a permanent structure and foundation. One of the things the engineer said is its rusting which means its failing. The rust is deteriorating the metal. How long is that going to take?

Member Underwood: It could be 2 years it could be 20 years.

Manager Whitehead: that is correct.

Member Carlstedt: The fill would then essentially take the place of the rebar in terms of supporting the structure?

Manager Whitehead: Exactly, it would technically hold it up. It would be concrete or something that would become hard would then take the form of the space and then it would just be solid. It would be a big rock you could crawl on it. Even if it did rust now the tile is just going to fail and you could actually fix that.

Member Underwood: Its also a matter of maintenance the reason we are here is because of maintenance. The pumps where inside the water that's why it rusted so we need to address that also.

Manager Whitehead: We can put some kind of piping. The right plumber can figure how to put a channel in the concrete so now its in there and a water line that goes to the art piece is protected its always on you can change. I think that can be done.

Member Underwood: Will you figure out a scope of work?

Manager Whitehead: Yes.

Member Underwood: I think that's good.

Manager Whitehead: I don't think there is anything at this point if you are ok with me changing direction and lets not decide weather or not its condemned. Lets just decide its broken lets put an RFP out and see if we cant get somebody that will come back and tell us if we did this we could fix the structure. Then we can tile it and doing thing in pieces. We could then see what the cost are and decide how we could pay for it.

We did carry forward your lodgers tax from last year. You had about \$6,000 left we add \$14,000 this years so your budget is \$20,000. As I said before im going to make a recommendation with in lodgers tax that we find a way to let you guys build that money going forward. So that you can save money and do a larger art project in the future.

Member Underwood: Do we need to have a motion and a vote?

Manager Whithead: I would say no. Let me go back and figure out with an RFP and that's when you guys would vote. You guys would decide if that sounds like the right proposal and we move forward.

Chairman Bryan: That would be good.

No action taken

b. Discussion/Action: Re-Appointment of Member Sid Bryan

Vice-Chairman Gustin made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment of Sid Bryan. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Discussion/Action: Re-Appointment of Member Cary Gustin

Member Carlstedt made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment of Cary Gustin. Member Underwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Discussion/Action: Re-Appointment of Member Eduardo Alicea

Vice-Chairman Gustin made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment of Eduardo Alicea. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Discussion/Action: Re-Appointment of Member Andy Underwood

Member Alicea made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment of Andy Underwood. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Chairman Bryan: We just wanted to know if there was any updates on the Reed Rocket.

City Manager Whitehead: All I can tell you is that the Reed Rocket situation is still in litigation. It has been sent back to the District Court and we are waiting.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Deputy Clerk Martinez: We are doing the re organizations of the chairman and vice-chairman of the boards.

7. SET TIME, PLACE AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

Deputy Clerk Martinez advised the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 4pm.

8. ADJOURN

Member Underwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20pm. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of OCTOBER 2025.


Sid Bryan, Chairman
Sid Bryan, Chairman