

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 16, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Arts Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2024 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 -
Suzanne Carlstedt, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Angie Gonzales- City Manager
Traci Alvarez – Assistant City Manager
Katy Martinez – Deputy Clerk

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Member Carlstedt made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Underwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. July 16, 2024

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)

Priscilla Spitler: When I returned to New Mexico in 2007 I brought a small business here I selected T or C because it was acceptable, affordable and evidence of a wonderful art community. I'm here to talk about rumors I've heard about the fountain being demolished due to ill repair. I have talked to the artist. I've talked to the arts council, and I think there should be further inspection. I even just talked to the city manager and Traci, and we talked about the fountain. I understand in the last report there was some assessment about the condition of the fountain that was more than superficial. I would like to see the report. I have looked at the fountain and there is no doubt it needs repair. I have spoken to the artist, and he is up to giving \$10,000 to repair it some years ago. He told me the other day it was specifically with the bridge, and I told him let's do away with the bridge modify things and just concentrate on the fountain. He was open to that he said he would be willing to do it for \$8,000. In the meeting I attended

last week for the arts council I understood that there are possibly funds for this. The artist is willing to do it he might need some help with some of the grouting work. I took a lot of pictures. A lot of the channels for the cement work needs to be redone. Why can't we put some kind of lining like we put in a pool? I could not see evidence of the interior. I'm told that you can remove the benches and work underneath. This should be something that the public should know about. It would be less expensive to repair it than to take it down.

Chairman Bryan: You said that you were talking to city manager?

Priscilla Spitler: The city manager agreed that it is was a beautiful fountain I got the impression she was willing to save it.

Chairman Bryan: What about Traci?

Priscilla Spitler: That I don't know.

Chairman Bryan: Did they have the report that you are talking about?

Priscilla Spitler: No, David Johnson was out sick.

Chairman Bryan: Do any of us have that report.

Vice-Chairman Gustin: It's on our packet.

Priscilla Spitler: There is a process to removing artwork it has to fall into one of the three categories which are there is a public outcry, beyond repair or a danger to the public.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Action: Cultural Corridors Project AIPP Art in Public Places which the city owned Ceramic Fountain was part of.

Vice-Chairman Gustin: The project was the corner stone project of our Sierra County Arts Council, the State of New Mexico, Office of Cultural Affairs and the New Mexico Highway Department. They have all partnered up to bring approximately 15 of those 100 k projects to New Mexico cities. Our Truth or Consequences Project commemorates transportation along the historic El Camino Real. This old trade route passes near Engle Nm about 15 miles away. The arts council took on this project and saw it through its 5-year construction process. The project was public art at its best and most fickle. There were 64 submissions and the final four were picked to come here to Truth or Consequences with a scale model of their proposal. The public was allowed comments 2 different times. The renowned norther NM artist Shel Neymark was chosen. His colorful tiles reflected the many colors found at the site. The piece is made of thousands of hands fired clay tiles from the artist's studio. Part of the plan was the inclusion of the flagstones which make up a public plaza, for gathering and simple reflection with the gurgling hot mineral water. The project cost was \$100,000. We received \$90,000 from the state with a \$10,000 local match. We received \$1,000 from Chamber of Commerce, SCEDO, City of T

or C, Sierra County, Artist Delmas Howe, Geronimo Springs Museum, Estate of Thelma Gustin Smith, Mike Donland and Dimid Hayes and the rest was raised by the sale of engraved flagstones at the sculpture and various SCAC fundraisers.

b. Discussion/Action: Status of Geronimo Springs Fountain.

Chairman Bryan: That is what we are doing now, I think.

Member Underwood made a motion to recommend renovation/repairs of the Geronimo Springs Fountain. Vice-Chairman Gustin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Discussion/Action: Process for removing/decommissioning artwork.

Chairman Bryan: Priscilla told us how that is.

Member Underwood: The fountain needs some cosmetic repair and there is a rumor of structural deficiencies possibly but no proof of that or engineers report or anything like that. We know that there is water in the spring box adequate to flow again if we set the right kind of pump up. The piece of art itself I think will probably last many more years. I suggest we explore ways to renovate it unless we see proof that we see that it meets the criteria or is a danger to the public. Repairs are something that can be fixed. Anything that can be fixed I think should be fixed possibly.

Chairman Bryan: I talked to three of the lodger's tax board people and they are all in favor of repairing it and fixing it and money doesn't seem to be a question. We spent so many months going on with what they would pay. They want to move and do something. It's wasting their time as well to just have the conversations, and we don't get anywhere.

Member Underwood: Do you think we need to request an engineer's report or something like that.

Member Alicea: I think we should ask the artist to come down and check the piece with the engineer so if there is some problem we will know ahead of time what needs to be fixed.

Chairman Bryan: I think it would hurt to have someone like Andy or a contractor that would be willing to take over all the different fractions of that with the artist and the rest of them so we could move on a little fast. Andy has already studied it more than anybody else.

Member Underwood: Let's see what the artist says.

Chairman Bryan: Are you willing to do that Andy?

Member Underwood: Sure, if it would help.

Vice Chairman Gustin: In the meeting in July David Johnson goes into pretty good detail of what is wrong with it. It's dangerous, unsafe etc.

Member Underwood: It starts out with the fact that children climb on it and what can you do about that. Put a fence around it? Then it goes into the discussion that it has steel inside and it's rusting away.

Chairman Bryan: If we could get all that stuff figured out and have a list of what needs to be done. Then we could start somewhere. Between Andy and Shel, I think we could have an agreement.

Vice-Chairman Gustin: In our last meeting David Johnson gave us some insight about what he felt was wrong with the fountain. Is it possible to have someone like an engineer or someone to look at it and give status with official documents?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I think you would have to take that recommendation to the city commissioners because the engineers aren't free. We would have to find out where that fund is coming from to pay for somebody to come in and look at that.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Does it make sense to do that?

Chairman Bryan: To start with like we talked about having Andy and Shel look at it they can give us something that we can then run by an engineer at that point. But they should give the first overview of what we are trying to do rather than just call the engineer because we don't know what to do until it's looked at and actually made sense of.

Member Underwood: We discussed the way it was put together. Originally there is a path for decommissioning where is it has to have public outcry, poor repair or danger to the public. We were thinking if it is in poor repair we could fix it instead of demolishing it. The danger to the public when we first started out talking with David, he was concerned with people climbing on it and then we started talking about the structure. We just want to try and save it if we can. If we can't then we want to go through the process of decommissioning it. If we have to hire an engineer does the city only have one, we can use?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We have various on-call contracts with various engineers. I would have to find out which one the engineers and architects that we have that would somebody that would look at that.

Member Underwood: We could use some of the money that we have available to this board to do that. If the city has no money.

City Manager Gonzales: I think that would be an acceptable expense. I think what you should do is lay out option a would be we want to fix it, and b would be something else. Then what we could do is maybe reach out to the engineers and see who wants to bid on it and who is going to give us the best price.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes, we would have to get some type of quotes. No necessary quotes because we don't have to have quotes because we have on-calls so that doesn't make it necessary to get quotes however I like to request from all of the on-calls for various projects for them to submit a quote or task order. That lets me know what they can do, how much they can do, and it also will give me a cost. You always want to be able to go with your best engineer but at the lowest cost also.

Chairman Bryan: In order to get that information wouldn't it be best than to do what we said were Shel and Andy get an overall so that we know what we are asking. Priscilla thinks she can get him to come down. He wants to because he made it after all.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I would like to facilitate that to include our city staff as well, both David Johnson and OJ, because they are the ones that are out there maintaining and taking care of that. They are the ones that identified the problems.

Member Underwood: So, then what we should do is have a meeting with Shel, David, OJ and an engineer and explore possibilities to save the fountain. Then we can decide what to do after that.

Vice-Chairman Gustin: Traci can you get a contractor to come and meet with them.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: That would have to come through the city. What I'm saying is if can facilitate the meeting that you are talking about. Give me some dates and times of the availability that you could meet. I can coordinate that with OJ and David you guys get together then David and OJ can come back with kind of a scope plan of what we would have to put out and request for an engineer. I then can put out that request if I get the task order or quote before your next meeting agenda goes out. I can put it on your agenda, and you will be able to take a look at them.

Vice-Chairman Gustin: So just the artist and City member meet and then decide of an engineer is needed?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes, I have to have a scope of work. I can't get engineers without. If you can facilitate that and then let me know I'll coordinate our staff.

Member Alicea made a motion to recommend the artist meet with City employees and board members on the repairs of Geronimo Springs Fountain. Vice-Chairman Gustin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

There were no reports from the board

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I have an update on the reed rocket. We took it to the commission, and they did have us put it up for sale. We advertised it, we received three different offers the commission wanted to get a little bit more information on the people that were making the offers and what they were going to do with it. Two of the offers responded via email with what their plans were and ultimately it was decided to award the offer to Andy Underwood. We are working on the final things.

Member Underwood: We are going to display it safely and proudly.

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

Deputy Clerk Martinez advised the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 4pm.

8. ADJOURN

Member Underwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of December 2024.



Sid Bryan, Chairman