

Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION May 8, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) meeting recorded at 6:00pm on May 8, 2023, held at the Tempe Public Library and via Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Maureen Kobierowski – Chair
Harper Lines
Haylee Mills
Lisa Roach
Randall Schmidt – arrived at 6:20pm
Justin Stewart
Ginny Sylvester

City Staff Present:

Brendan Ross, Deputy Director – Arts & Culture Division
Joy Higgins, Management Assistant – Arts & Culture Division
Kara Osburn, Financial Analyst – Arts & Culture Division
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Manager – Tempe Public Art
Eileen May, General Manager – Tempe Center for the Arts
Brenda Abney, Manager – Tempe History Museum
Maja Aurora, Manager – Tempe Community Arts
Julian Dresang, Deputy Director – Engineering & Transportation

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Jacqueline Bernatt – Vice-chair
Jennifer Song

Guest(s) Present:

None

Call to Order

- **Maureen Kobierowski**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

- None

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the April 17, 2023 Commission Minutes

M. Kobierowski asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated April 17, 2023.

MOTION: Haley Mills moved to approve the April 17, 2023 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Lisa Roach seconded

AYES: Harper Lines, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Justin Stewart, Ginny Sylvester

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

RESULT: Motion passed with a 6-0 vote

ABSENT: Jacqueline Bernatt, Randall Schmidt, Jennifer Song,

Agenda Item 3 – Update: Economic Development – POSTPONED

Agenda Item 4 – Mill Avenue Refresh & Arts and Culture Initiatives

- **Julian Dresang** presented information about the Downtown Tempe Refresh. Details include:
 - This project is an inter-departmental initiative to improve the Downtown and improve on the greatness that is already there.

- Information is continually updated on the Downtown Tempe Refresh webpage, with links to meeting presentations and recordings and a link for community feedback.
[Tempe.gov/downtowntemperefresh](https://tempe.gov/downtowntemperefresh)
- Current Projects
 - Landscape improvements in medians and replacing vacant trees
 - Exclusive pedestrian interval at Fifth Street and Mill Avenue (ability to cross diagonally)
 - Adaptive Streets Concepts:
 - Mural at 7th Street and College
 - Street mural on 6th Street circle
 - Crosswalk artwork in partnership with Downtown Tempe Authority (DTA)
 - Mill Avenue respite by DTA: “living room” areas on Mill Avenue
 - Digital cross street banner (still under discussion)
- Near-Term Projects
 - Lighting
 - Downtown festoon lighting
 - Mill Avenue Bridge light replacement
 - 5th Street Streetscape
 - From Farmer to College Avenue
 - Design update
 - Includes West City Hall Parking Lot
 - Art opportunities
 - Mill Avenue Streetscape
 - University Dr to Rio Salado Parkway
 - Currently building preliminary design
 - Seeking input from community and stakeholders
 - Key topics: hardscape and trees
 - Art opportunities
- Q/A
 - The public will have opportunities to weigh-in on design schemes
 - Regarding Mill Avenue “living room” areas and taking precautions with the homeless community: this topic is still under discussion
 - This is a great time to talk about revisiting busking laws as a way to bring local artists back into this refresh
 - Is the City considering the refresh in conjunction with other potential initiatives, such as the Four Mill, and ways to draw people to the area?
- Tempe Public Art and Downtown Tempe Refresh
 - TPA has been meeting regularly with Engineering and Transportation to talk about all of the projects Julian discussed to determine where are the opportunities for artwork.
 - TPA is seeking ways to bring temporary art interventions into downtown.
 - Mill Avenue Underpass mural project as an entry point to Downtown Tempe
- Other Arts & Culture Initiatives in Downtown Tempe
 - Live Music Fees reduction
 - TCA Gallery satellite spaces at the Tempe Post Office
 - Exhibition installation in empty storefronts, under discussion
 - Event window wraps in empty storefronts, under discussion

Agenda Item 5 – Update: Arts & Culture Division

- **Brendan Ross, Deputy CS Director**, delivered programming updates:
 - Arizona Theatre Company and TCA: City Council voted unanimously to support the partnership long term. ATC will sign a five-year commitment, lease the shop space to serve as a box office, and move forward with 80 performances per year starting in October 2023.
 - Tempe History Museum has been awarded the Museum Association of AZ Institutional Award of Excellence.
 - Tempe History Museum summer programs can be found on the [Museum Event Calendar](#).

- TCA reflecting pond issues – a contractor has been brought on to assess the problems and provide a repair estimate.
- Public Art GIS maps: city has migrated GIS maps for the city to a new and upgraded system that provides more information about art and artists, and lets users report damage. Please review the map and send questions/feedback to Rebecca. [Tempe.gov/publicartmap](https://tempe.gov/publicartmap)
- Commission will recess for June/July and return in August. Commissioners are encouraged to represent TACC as they are out and about this summer.

Agenda Item 6 – Official TACC Activations

- **Recent Activations**

- Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) Updates/Feedback
 - Haley and Jennifer met with NAC on May 3rd. They are eager to partner with TACC when opportunities arise.
 - NAC supports the signature event and want to be involved. Items to consider:
 - Aligns with the spring Neighborhood Celebration
 - Disney Floating Laser Show
 - Drone Show
 - Be sure that indigenous tribes are involved
 - NAC is currently crafting Neighborhood Personalities and accompanying art
 - Maryann Corder Grant workshop coming up – art is an option
 - Ensure TACC is plugged in with GAIN Night in September
 - Promote Arts & Culture events and projects through Peach Jar
 - Provide links for the community to opt-in for emailed information
 - Activate [Pre-Qualified Artist List](#) to local business owners
 - TACC or Arts & Culture presence at Escalante Fall Festival/Unity Walk/Legoland
- Maureen attended Arts in the Parks at Hollis Park, very fun! Next event at Optimist Park.
- Ginny attended Tempe History Museum performance of Bohemian Insurgence, great attendance!
- GP 2050 Plan draft is online for review and survey
- AZOCOZA art show on the 27th of May

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

- **None**

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm
Prepared by: Joy Higgins