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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – June 15, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Archaeology

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Elizabeth Ann Bulos	X	
	Angel Cabrales	X	
	Elvira Carrizal-Dukes	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Kenneth Gorski	X	
	Teresa Hernandez		X
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Marina Monsivais		X
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno		X
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez		X
	Ida Mae Steadman	X	

CITY CLERK DEPT.
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Consecutive absences: Escobar Estrella (2nd), Erica Marin (2nd), Daniel Longoria (1st), Marina Monsivais (1st), Analinda Moreno (2nd), and Carina Ramirez (1st).

Others present: Tracey Jerome, Ben Fyffe, Victoria Ramirez, Jeff Romney, Omar De La Rosa and Diana Cepeda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for April 20, 2017.** Chair gave members a few minutes to review the minutes and requested a motion to accept. Isela Ocegueda moved to approve. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Loan Request.** Victoria Ramirez presented a loan request from the Museum of the Southwest located in Midland, TX. for an exhibition called *Three Millennia of Art in West Texas*. The Southwest Museum staff came and visited the Museum of Art, went over the art collection, and selected seven art works for the loan request. They also had requested to borrow one of the Tom Lee paintings, but the Art Museum had already reserved it for future exhibition at Museum of Art. For the other pieces there is no planned exhibition here and they have not been on exhibit for some time. The Art Museum would like to support the proposed exhibition project. The Museum of the Southwest is accredited by American Alliance of Museums. Museum of Art staff have reviewed the facilities report, and are very confident regarding the loan request. Dr. Ramirez presented a power point presentation of the requested artworks which are all views of the West. Katherine Brennand moved to approve. Elvira Carrizal seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action on Updated El Paso Museum of Art Collections Policy. Dr. Ramirez talked about the need for the Museum of Art Collections Policy to be refreshed and updated. Dr. Ramirez thanked Omar De La Rosa, Michelle Villa and others from the Art Museum who looked at the Collections Policy to ensure it reflected best practices and to care for the Museum and its assets. Dr. Ramirez noted some updates on the accessions policy, the gallery environmental conditions requirements, photography policy and the incoming loans agreement. Mr. De La Rosa added the Collections Policy will be updated every five years, or before if needed. Dr. Ramirez explained that the Collections Policy is a very important document for staff to use when needed. Ms. Carrizal moved to approve. Ms. Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously

6. Discussion and Action on Updated El Paso Museum of History Collections Policy. Ben Fyffe mentioned the three Museums' Collections Policies are being presented to the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB) for approval as they will be taken to City Council in July for adoption. The policy for the History Museum has not been updated since 2002 when the Museum moved from the far eastside to downtown. The changes in the policy now reflect the Museum's correct address, the updated mission, the Museum as part of Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD), MCAAB's role in accessions, and the Digital Wall collection as part of the Museum Permanent Collections. There was a lot of repetitive language and some things were defined over and over, and staff wanted to make things as easy as possible for all stakeholders (staff, other Institutions and the public) to understand. Ms. Perez asked if the History Museum was still following the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for deaccessioning. Mr. Fyffe said the History Museum follows the NHPA and other acts, but the deaccessions policy has been streamlined and cleaned up. Ms. Perez asked if the History Museum owns anything in the collection that can be considered hazardous as she reviewed the Collection updates. Mr. Fyffe responded the Museum does not have anything at the moment, but it is important to account for future situations and provided an example. Ms. Perez suggested to be more clear on the deaccessions criteria in regards to duplicated items. Ms. Brennand asked what is the storage capacity of the Digie Wall and how that works. Mr. Fyffe answered they have not reached or even gotten close to its capacity. The Museum has partnered with the Library as the Library has incredible limitations for their collection and we would like to start digitizing those works and bring them to the Wall. Ms. Carrizal moved to approve. Ms. Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on Updated El Paso Museum of Archaeology Collections Policy. Jeff Romney provided an update on the Museum of Archaeology Collections Policy. He outlined the changes in the mission statement, statement of purpose, the use and access, commencement and ownership, exhibits policy, the environmental conditions and the use of photography for marketing purposes. Ken Gorski asked Omar De La Rosa if he went over the Collections Policy updates and Mr. De La Rosa responded yes. Ms. Perez asked what type of individual research staff will conduct, as stated in the policy. Mr. Romney added they would like to be more involved in the research of their own collections so the collections and exhibitions can be more dynamic in use. Ms. Perez asked Mr. Romney to provide additional details and to be more specific on the deaccessioning policy. Mr. De La Rosa explained the possibility to motion to approve with the specific changes Ms. Perez was concerned about. The Board agreed to move to approve if Ms. Perez, Mr. De La Rosa and Mr. Romney added more clarification to the deaccessions policy. Ms. Carrizal asked what the Archaeology Museum does when it has too many objects and it needs to remove some of them from the permanent collection. Mr. Romney explained there are provisions within the policy in which certain institutions in New Mexico and Arizona have priority to accept them into their collections if the museum needs to deaccession an item. There are also a provisions to sell the item or destroy it depending on the condition. Ms. Brennand moved to approve. Ida Steadman seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and action on reappointment of Edmund Castle to the Public Art Committee. Mr. Gorski asked to Board to approve the reappointment of Edmund Castle to the Public Art Committee as he is actively involved in engineering and on the Public Art Committee. Ms. Brennand moved to approve. Ann Kruzich seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and action on appointment of Josue Munoz to the Public Art Committee. Mr. Gorski said Josue Munoz works indirectly with him and he is a professor of Architecture at El Paso Community College. Mr. Munoz obtained his Masters of Architecture from California College of the Arts in San Francisco, CA and he has exhibited artworks on both sides of the border. Elizabeth Ann Bulos moved to approve. Mr. Kruzich seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

10. Museum Reports. Mr. Romney provided a copy of the Archaeology Museum reports from April to August. He shared the total attendance for the lecture series and the success of the *Paquime and the Casas Grandes Culture and The Rocks Speak: Rock Art of the Casas Grandes Region* exhibit. He announced the Museum will now open on Sundays from 12-5pm and provided an update on the hiring process for the Community Engagement Coordinator. Ms. Kruzich asked if there were local applicants for the open position. Mr. Romney explained the qualifications for the position were very specific including a Master's Degree and 4 years of experience in a

Museum. Unfortunately, the local candidates did not meet the 4 years of experience required for the job. Dr. Ramirez provided a copy of the Museum member's magazine which includes the spring and summer offerings, exhibitions that are currently on view and upcoming programming. The magazine also includes a 2016 report and support groups to reconnect with the Museum members. She also provided an invitation to the Spirit Lines exhibition in collaboration with the Archeology Museum. Ben Fyffe, as interim Director of the Museum of History, gave an update on the upcoming exhibits, community projects, education programming and the Digital Wall.

11. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for August 17, 2017.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Diana Cepeda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

