

JOHN C. COOK
MAYOR

JOYCE A. WILSON
CITY MANAGER

SEAN P. MCGLYNN
DIRECTOR



CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSIE BYRD, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
DR. MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN, JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – September 15, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor conference room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

Roll call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	Francesca Alonso		X
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Tania Chozet	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Belinda Luna		X
	Marina Monsisvais		X
	William Moody	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Jane E. Ratcliff		X
	Abel Saucedo	X	
	Jane B. Thomas		X
	Ray Valencia		X

Others present: Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Misty Castaneda and Ben Fyffe.

2. **Public Comment.** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes.** Katherine Brennand moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on August 18, 2011, as presented. Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Julia Bussinger began by speaking on active preparations that are currently ongoing for major events at the Archaeology Museum. The Jornada Mogollon Conference will be taking place October 7th and 8th; publicity is being sent out in an effort to increase attendance. Mentioned that special fall camps are being created. The museums were showcased during a visit by Rep. Cortney Niland on Wednesday. The new Archaeology Museum curator, Dr. Matthew Taylor, starts on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Julia will bring him to the next meeting for introductions. Mentioned that the Chihuahuan Desert Garden is very beautiful, and the gazebo will be painted turquoise. For the History Museum, the contract for the Mystery of the Mayan Medallion exhibit is in the process of being signed. The exhibit will feature artifacts from the Archaeology Museum, with an opening reception at the History Museum on October 13th at 6pm. Mentioned that the money for Las Villitas was approved by City Council at the September 13th meeting and hope is that the Las Villitas gallery will open by the end of this year or early next year at the latest. The Burges High School Public History Pilot Program has begun, and classes are being taught at the museum. Mentioned October is Archaeology Month and both museums are participating in Tom Lea month as well.

Michael Tomor provided several updates on current issues since the last meeting. Reported that the Human Resources Department performed a review of the Assistant Curator position and determined that a Senior Curator was needed. A candidate has been offered the job, and if all goes well, will start on November 1, 2011. There is a part-time position in the Education Division as well, and a job offer has been made. The Margarita Cabrera exhibit has opened in the Patricia and Jonathan Rogers Grand Lobby, *Andy Warhol: Celebrities and Icons* opened in the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Gallery, and the Tom Lea exhibit

opened in the Tom Lea Gallery. The *Picturing Health: Norman Rockwell and the Art of Illustration* exhibit opens October 1st and is sponsored by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. There will be a soft opening for the work of David Taylor also on October 1st. Lastly, Michael mentioned that Educational Programming will run from September 24th through October 13th, the Museum store sale will run from September 15th through October 25th, the Development Team is sending the Collector's Club to San Francisco from September 23rd through September 26th, and he will be travelling to Ensenada, Mexico on September 28th to attend the award ceremony for winning the Cross Border Cooperation Award.

5. **Discussion and Action on Guidelines for Downtown Artist Market.** Ben Fyffe gave some background information on the Artist Market, explaining it is launching at the end of October with space for 50 vendors. Market hours will be on Saturdays, 8am-12pm during summer months, and 9am-1pm during winter months. Because this needs to be an affordable opportunity for local artists, the booth fee is \$2/Saturday. Ben reviewed the guidelines to become a vendor, the guidelines for buskers, and guidelines for food trucks as well. He then requested approval of the guidelines. Carina Ramirez so motioned; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on Call for Artists for Music Under the Stars and Dancing in the City.** Ben Fyffe mentioned that the guidelines for how artists submit are pretty much unchanged, and that attendance this season at Music Under the Stars has been dismal in part due to the new alcohol restriction. We are exploring other location options; the mayor and Rep. Reyes have been actively involved in negotiations. Judge Moody inquired as to whether or not Fort Bliss has been considered, and Ben replied that the Division of Family Welfare is very interested in working with us. Judge Moody then inquired about Ascarate Park and Ben replied that we are working with them as well. Judge Moody requested a motion for approval of the guidelines. R. Katherine Brennand so motioned; Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for October 20, 2011.

Approved for content by:
William Moody, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department