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## Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Art Committee (PAC)  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 3:30 PM  
MCAD Board Room

### MINUTES

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
OCT 15 PM 4:21

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm.

2. **Roll Call.**

**Members Present:** Melissa Barba, Kim Bauer, Jeannine Kennedy, Gregory McNicol, Daniela Quesada Rivas and Stefanie Block Uribarri

**Members Absent:** Edmund Castle, Robert González, Marina Monsisvais and Jane Thomas

**Others Present:** Pat Dalbin, Aidee Guevara and Misty Monteros

3. **Public Comment.** None

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Pat Dalbin assisted in carrying out action items in the absence of the Chair. Pat requested approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on August 11, 2015. Kim Bauer moved to approve as distributed; Melissa Barba seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on the Design Concept by Artist Christopher Fennell for the Travis White Park Project.** Pat Dalbin introduced Daniela Quesada Rivas as the PAC member who sat through the process before turning the floor over to her. Daniela went on to say that the Wagon Sprouts concept was chosen and it will be located in Travis White Park, which sits between 2 elementary schools. The artist was selected due to his use of abstraction and using materials that have to do with the site; he is very contextual. His approach to the sculpture is very whimsical, as it is 3 bean sprouts made of Red Flyer wagons, creating a shaded seating space area. She further explained to members that in his presentation, he discussed his vision of children walking to and from the elementary schools and the Radio Flyers being a symbol of childhood and carrying things such as their books, toys and their dreams for the future. A maquette was available for members to view and images of the artist's past works were shown along with renderings of his design concept via a PowerPoint slideshow. Members reviewed the Wagon Sprouts budget, concept, fabrication and installation. General discussion followed. Pat noted that the artist on the artist selection panel, Christopher Winterstein, who also works in sculpture, was so excited about this project, he asked to collaborate with Christopher Fennell; Pat indicated he could be hired as the Allied Artist to work side-by-side with him. She continued by saying the artist will now cement his concept and develop his design before the project comes back to the PAC. Gregory McNicol moved that the artist be allowed to continue to develop his concept all the way to construction. Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on a Donation by Ms. Cech and Accepted by City Council to be included as part of a 9/11 Memorial Public Art Project and located at Fire Station #18, 7901 San Jose Road.**

Pat Dalbin began by explaining that Ms. Cech goes to Council every Tuesday and has been trying for several years to donate two beams welded together as a replica of the World Trade Center tragedy. She wants the City to accept it so that we have a 9/11 memorial; City Council accepted it a couple months ago and now it comes to the PAC for approval. Artists would be selected by direct-select to work with the replica and incorporate it into a 9/11 memorial that is proposed to be at Fire Station #18 in the Lower Valley. Regional and local artists will be asked to submit proposals of how they would use the piece or enhance it to create the memorial. Members were shown images of the proposed site, including an aerial view, along with images of the piece in its current state, and what was found at Ground Zero via a PowerPoint slideshow. Due to separation of church and state, Ms. Cech was advised by the City that the piece would be accepted, but that it would be modified. Pat noted that 3 different proposals on how the piece would be incorporated into a 9/11 memorial project would be secured, either from one artist or 3 different local artists. Pat continued by explaining there is \$50,000 earmarked for the project, to include artist fees and material fees, plus installation fees. General discussion followed as members voiced

concern over whether Mrs. Cech had religious motivation and understands that the piece will be modified. Pat replied that it has been explained to her the piece cannot be erected as a cross and she will see it before it is brought back to the PAC. A member noted the artist charged with this project will need to be extremely sensitive and open, plus a dialogue with the public would have to be started earlier than putting the piece out. Melissa Barba moved to accept the project plan; Daniela Quesada Rivas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**7. Public Art Status Report.** Pat Dalbin reported that Donald Lipski's UTEP Spur 1966 installation will take place after January 4<sup>th</sup>; ConRAC installation at the airport will be in January; Blackie Chesher project artists will be in town for a site visit; the zoo event tent piece has been fabricated; a call for the zoo Chihuahuan Desert project is out and the deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>. A member asked why the UTEP Spur 1966 is so delayed, and Pat replied that getting the contract negotiated and returned took a long time, as did fabrication, which is about 75% complete. There is also a 3-step process to paint each of approximately 6,000 panels and the painter that was hired has backed out of the project after becoming ill. A replacement is being looked for. The artist is coming into town next month to get the permits and site plan to stage the installation work. General discussion followed.

**8. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Gregory McNicol so moved; Melissa Barba seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:03pm. Next meeting scheduled for October 13, 2015.

Approved for content by:  
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Manager

Respectfully submitted by:  
Misty Monteros, Administrative Assistant

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