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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – April 20, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art, Seminar Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:08 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	
	M. Erica Marin		X
	Marina Monsivais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno		X
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Ida Mae Steadman	X	

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Consecutive absences: Katherine Brennand (1st), Angel Cabrales (2nd), Elvira Carrizal-Dukes (1st), Escobar Estrella (1st), Erica Marin (2nd), Analinda Moreno (2nd)

Others present: Tracey Jerome, Ben Fyffe, Omar De La Rosa, Jesus Quintanilla, Victoria Ramirez, Jeff Romney, Diana Cepeda, and Cindy Kieffer Díaz

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

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for December 15, 2016.** Chair gave members a few minutes to review the minutes and requested a motion to accept. Estrella Escobar moved to approve; Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Presentation on Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code (Open Meetings Act)** Omar De La Rosa provided a copy of Sec. 551.0415 and 551.042 from the Open Meetings Act. He proceeded to explain the section that specifies claims can or cannot be discussed if an item is not noted on the meeting agenda. He continued to read section 551.0415 which explains which items of community interest can be answered by the staff without giving a previous notice of the subject of the report. He then read section 551.042 and explained the board and public can ask questions to staff members without having them on the agenda and staff can answer those questions as long as they provide factual short answers that do not involve deliberation of any specific matter. The reason to post on the agenda is to give members of the public an opportunity to see what is being covered during the board meetings and to create transparency. Mr. De La Rosa referred to Elia Perez's question from the previous meeting in regards to the status of the Country Club Public Art issue which was alright as long as there was no board deliberation. If there was to be deliberation, an item should be addressed on the next

meeting agenda.

5. Presentation on Chapter 2.40 of the El Paso City Code. Mr. De La Rosa handed out a copy of the 2.40.060, Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB) Duties from the El Paso, TX Code of Ordinances. He said it is very common for Boards to exceed what is allowed in their specified duties, and the chapter provided an outline of the duties of this Board. According to this chapter the MCAAB advises the Department on matters such as cultural funding program, public art programming and other departmental matters as determined by the Director. He specified only the Director has governance on what is placed on the agenda. The chapter also specifies the MCAAB should make recommendations to City Council on policies and decisions regarding each of the Museums such as acquisitions/deaccessions, loans, conservation, insurance, collection use and documentation of collections. Mr. De La Rosa mentioned he is currently working on policies about these subjects that eventually will come to the MCAAB for review and approval. He talked about section C under the same chapter which is limited to the Public Art Program and how MCAAB contributes to the decision-making process in relation to this program. Tracey Jerome added that all accessions into the permanent collections of the Museums come to the MCAAB to review by this Board. Mr. De La Rosa explained the accessions policy specifies the steps that need to be taken before acquiring a piece of art and the MCAAB gets to weigh in on proposed acquisitions. MCAAB may request a survey of the collection to know the condition of each work of art. Ms. Jerome mentioned there is a survey available with information about the collection. The Public Art program is 10 years old now and the Department has requested a budgetary increase for FY18 budget to maintain, conserve, repair and restore the Public Art collection. Mr. De La Rosa read section six which explains the board shall recommend the creation of a separate entity to seek private donations. He asked if all the Museums had one and Ms. Jerome said Art and History have foundation boards and Archeology is working on the creation of one. Mr. De La Rosa clarified under section C no member of the MCAAB should hold any public offices of honor, trust or profit in the government of the city or county. He answered the question that Marina Monsisvais had in a previous meeting in regards to who we may request to place an item on the agenda. Ms. Perez said it was explained to them to always contact the Chair and Chair will go to the Director. Ms. Jerome confirmed the direction is to go to the Chair who would go to the Director to make sure everything is open and transparent. Ms. Perez also stated she thought the meetings were going to start with call for public comment before call to order. Mr. De La Rosa said the MCAAB can use the public comment section to ask questions that do not involve any type of deliberation. Ms. Ramirez asked who will decide if the Board is discussing or deliberating. Mr. De La Rosa responded that he will intervene if needed.

6. Discussion and Action on increased allocation to Montana RTS project. Ben Fyffe advised the Board Sun Metro would like to increase the budget for the previously approved RTS project using Sun Metro funds by \$150,000 for a total of \$500,000. This increase will not have a budgetary impact on the Public Art program. Ms. Monsisvais asked what the budgets for the other RTS projects were Mr. Fyffe responded around \$350,000. However, Sun Metro had determined that because the Montana line bisects the city and also serves the airport they would like to increase the funds to increase the visual impact. Ken Gorski moved to accept the increase of \$150,000 for the Montana RTS project. Ms. Monsisvais moved to approve. Ms. Ramirez seconded. All members voted in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Museum Reports. Mr. Fyffe gave the History Museum report as the Interim Director. There are interviews scheduled in search of the Museum's Director. Updates for the Museum include Kids Palooza which brought over 2,000 people to the Museum and 127,000 touches to the Digital Wall. The Digital Wall had 100,000 visitors since opening on February 14th of 2015 and those visitors have touched the screen over 26 million times. The Museum will be closing the Wall for maintenance, but mMini DIGIE will be available. Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Cathedral High School will be the focus of the next Circle of Giants exhibition, opening in August to celebrate the centennial of Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the 90th anniversary of Cathedral High School. The Museum has raised over \$5,000 in donations for this exhibition. Ms. Monsisvais asked then for the name of the consulting firm for the Director search. Mr. Fyffe answered Ralph Andersen & Associates which the city has used before on other recruitments.

Jeff Romney gave the Archeology Museum report and provided a copy of the report that included past education programs and special activities, upcoming programs and activities and other updates to the Board. Mr. Romney mentioned the closing of the *Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker* exhibition on Jan, 27th which had over 2,176 attendees; the Museum hosted the Poppies Fest on April 1st with over 3,777 attendees and had a small ribbon cutting for the new gazebo. He briefly reviewed the Museum overall attendance, upcoming programs, and stores sales. Currently on view the Museum has *Faces of Mexico: Human Imagery in Pre-Columbian Art* and is working on planning for the Paquime and the Casas Grandes Culture exhibit. Mr. Gorski asked if there was a public opening for the the Casas Grandes and Paquime exhibition. Mr. Romney replied May 20th is the date for the soft opening planned but there would be a mini reception on June 10th.

Victoria Ramirez provided Museum of Art report. She handed out a calendar of upcoming exhibitions and the Museum's newsletter. She talked about the opening of *The Red Colored the World* which will open for members the night before it opens to the public which will be one of the perks the Museums is presenting for members for some of the exhibitions. She talked then about other upcoming events the Museum has scheduled and

proceeded to talk about the newsletter that will be printed two months at a time for cost efficiency. Dr. Ramirez showed the board a sneak peak of the new member magazine that will be printed twice a year. Ann Kruzich asked if there was any planning for Museum membership cards and Dr. Ramirez explained the savings from the newsletter printing will permit investing on membership cards which will also provide other member benefits as the Museum just joined the North American reciprocal museum program. Ms. Perez shared recognition for the Museums programs coming from the public and mentioned positive feedback regarding museum scholarship program. Dr. Ramirez thanked her. Mr. Romney added the Archeology will have a newsletter coming soon.

8. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for April 20, 2017.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

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

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