



MINUTES

Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners – August 17, 2021 Held in the Executive Conference Room at 800 Municipal Dr., Farmington NM

Members Present: John McNeill, D.D.S. – Chair (via Conference Call)
Jill Tanis – Vice Chair
Doug Dykeman – Commissioner
Elizabeth McNally - Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Julie Baird
Warren Unsicker
Shaña Reeves
Elizabeth Sandoval

Others Present: None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Tanis. A roll call was taken showing Chair McNeill (via conference call), Vice Chair Tanis and Commissioner Dykeman in attendance and Commissioner McNally absent. There being a quorum, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

2. Approval of the Amended July 20, 2021 Minutes

Chair McNeill sent an email August 11, 2021 to request the following changes be made to the draft minutes of July 20, 2021:

~~Page 7 - Chair McNeill asked Mr. Unsicker if he would be able to set up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss possible options for a solution of The Arc.~~ **Chair McNeill asked Mr. Unsicker if he would please set up a meeting with a City Manager, Ms. Wilkins and Chair McNeill to discuss possible solutions for the ARC's problems which were presented at this meeting.** Page 8 - Mr. Unsicker stated that the property was gifted to the City and it is not being brought forth for a private entity to take the

~~property over.~~ Mr. Unsicker stated that the property was gifted to the City and it is **now** being brought forth for a private entity to take the property over.

The changes were made and emailed to the MRA Board on August 16, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dykeman and seconded by Chair McNeill to approve the amended minutes of July 20, 2021, and upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

3. Presentation by Arts Council on Public Art in Downtown Core

Commissioner McNally joined the meeting.

Julie Baird, Assistant City Manager, presented the concept of public art in the downtown core. Ms. Baird stated that the City would like to work with the Arts Council and begin to do some public art in the downtown corridor. Ms. Baird referenced www.downtownngj.org/aotc, Downtown Grand Junction Colorado's website, which shows how Grand Junction conducts public art in their downtown core, which has been a successful program and mirrored in many cities across the country. Ms. Baird stated that the process is an outside juried art show, there is an application process and artists are selected and issued a stipend, art is displayed for one year and if the art sells, a percentage is given to the organization, which funds the honorarium for the next juried show. Ms. Baird stated that at this time locations for public art could be identified downtown and planning could begin for our downtown area. Ms. Baird stated that she is bringing this concept before the MRA board to get thoughts and input and would like to create a proposal and move it forward to Council within the next month, with a possible Spring 2022 installation of art. Ms. Baird stated that within the four roundabouts downtown, the City and community should invest in permanent structures in these locations. Ms. Baird then referenced <https://www.visitbend.com/things-to-do/art-museums-history/arts/roundabout-art-route/>, Roundabout Art Route in Bend, Oregon, as an example of some art pieces that are on display in their roundabouts. Ms. Baird stated that Bend, Oregon does work with their Convention and Visitors Bureau and has a route that people can take to see the art in the roundabouts. Ms. Baird stated that the Arts Council is interested in how they could encourage public art downtown. Ms. Baird asked the MRA Board if they had any questions.

Vice Chair Tanis asked if the competition would be for local artists or for any individual who would like to participate.

Ms. Baird stated that had not been decided, but that it could be opened up to any individual that would like to participate, maybe with 50% of the show open to only Four Corners artists.

Vice Chair Tanis stated that there are so many great artists, it would be good to give them some consideration. Vice Chair Tanis stated that it might be worth considering this for Broadway, as well as other parts of the city, for future planning.

Ms. Baird stated that as this project begins to expand, other locations could be considered.

Chair McNeill asked if Bev Taylor was representing the Farmington Arts & Cultural District and if Flo Trujillo was involved in the discussions as well.

Ms. Baird stated that both Bev Taylor and Flo Trujillo were involved in the discussions.

Chair McNeill stated that he believed this is a great project. Chair McNeill asked if the project violated the concept of roundabouts never being higher than the driver of the vehicle and never being something distracting that one wouldn't be paying attention to the street and if these issues were discussed as part of the project.

Ms. Baird stated that we are early on in these discussions and her first task was to present this concept to the MRA Board; the next task would be to go to Community Works and the Traffic Division to discuss any concerns and best practices for this project.

Commissioner Dykeman stated that he likes both concepts presented and is 100% in favor of this project. Commissioner Dykeman stated that when the project is presented to the Traffic Division there should be discussion on allowing large pieces of art in the roundabouts.

Ms. Baird stated that a time will be identified to present this project to Council, possibly before the next MRA Board meeting.

Vice Chair Tanis made a recommendation to promote and move this project through the essential steps and be presented to the City Council for approval. All board members were in full support of this recommendation. The recommendation carried 4-0.

Chair McNeill asked Ms. Baird which department within the City would maintain this project and who would serve as the jury, install the art and upkeep and maintenance.

Ms. Baird stated that the Arts Council would maintain this selection of art and the program of the project with City-wide assistance for installation and maintenance.

4. Debrief with Farmington Clean and Beautiful

Shaña Reeves, PRCA Director, stated that Farmington Clean and Beautiful is currently overseen by Debbie Homer, Clean and Beautiful Specialist. Ms. Reeves stated that the Farmington Clean and Beautiful initiative has been in the PRCA Department for 8 years and has been funded by grants that are dwindling each year and is being supported mostly by City funds. Ms. Reeves stated that during the pandemic, Debbie Homer was reassigned to the Farmington Civic Center to fill in as the Administrative Assistant position and is on a transition plan back to the PRCA Administration Department, in hopes to increase the time Ms. Homer can spend on Farmington Clean and Beautiful initiatives. Ms. Reeves stated that in terms of Main Street, PRCA would like to work with Warren Unsicker, Economic Development Director and a new Downtown Coordinator, should one be hired, to reinstitute the Front Porch Initiative for downtown businesses; this initiative is not new and reminds business of front porch upkeep and how to attract a shopper's eye to shop in their store. Ms. Reeves stated that another thing that Farmington Clean and Beautiful could work on with the MRA is the trash compactor project, keeping an eye out for grant funding. Ms. Reeves stated that Farmington Clean and Beautiful will also be working on initiatives for organized cleaning of the lake, the river and downtown, hopefully inspiring business owners to clean up their spaces. Ms. Reeves stated that within the next year the PRAC would be updating their master plan, noting that the MRA is an important stakeholder to the PRCA Department and would be

invited to a stakeholder meeting, looking for input on bringing organization to the Animas District, which fits in with the master plan. Ms. Reeves asked the Board if they had any questions.

There were no questions.

5. Brownfields Grant Debrief

Commissioner McNally asked that this agenda item be moved to the next meeting.

6. Updated Plans for OR Conference and NMMS Conference

Mr. Unsicker stated that there have been a lot of events going on downtown, noting the Downtown Takeover scheduled for September 10, 2021, an off road vehicle showcase, Habitat for Humanity Car Show on the September 18, 2021 and the Outdoor Economic Conference on end of September – beginning of October, a statewide conference being sponsored and hosted by the City of Farmington at the Farmington Civic Center. Mr. Unsicker stated that there is also a soon to be announced Apple Festival hosted by the Arts Council, showcasing both art and the heritage of apples in the community.

Ms. Baird stated that this festival event is a qualifier for the Art Council to be part of an Arts District, unique to the Arts Council. Ms. Baird stated that the Arts Council stated that they hope for this event to become an annual event and in hopes to partner with the Chamber of Commerce's annual Chili Festival.

Mr. Unsicker stated that the New Mexico Main Street (NMMS) Quarterly Conference will be a two day event beginning Wednesday, October 20, 2021 through Friday, October 22, 2021. Mr. Unsicker stated that this event will be hosted at the Totah Theater.

Ms. Baird stated that remodeling of the Totah Theater is ongoing and if the venue is not available the Farmington Civic Center stands ready to host the event.

Chair McNeill asked Mr. Unsicker if there is anything the MRA Board can do to assist with the NMMS Conference.

Mr. Unsicker stated that he is still in the planning phase of this event and will let the board know when more information becomes available.

7. MRA Staff Updates

Mr. Unsicker stated that new businesses continue to locate downtown. Mr. Unsicker stated that The Connect Space, a co-working space, will have their grand opening this week, Calaveras, Santos Y Mas just opened with sugar skull art, Sandstone Bicycles, a market co-op space has opened; businesses continue to open up downtown.

Chair McNeill asked Mr. Unsicker for an update on the follow up to the presentation from The ARC trash issues and the meeting that would be setup with upper level City administration, Chair McNeill, Ms. Wilkens from the ARC, Mr. Unsicker and possibly Waste Management to discuss the trash issues at The Arc.

Mr. Unsicker stated that he has put in a request for this meeting and would get back with Chair McNeill on dates and times.

Ms. Baird asked Chair McNeill when he would be back in town.

Chair McNeill stated hopefully sometime in the middle of September.

8. Business From:

Floor – There was no business from the Floor.

Chair – There was no business from the Chair.

Members – Vice Chair Tanis thanked Ms. Sandoval for her work in preparing the meeting minutes and keeping the board on schedule.

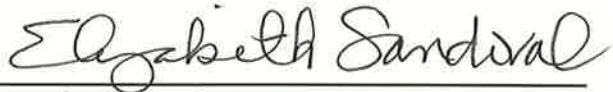
Staff – There was no business from Staff.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Dykeman and seconded by Commissioner McNally to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. The Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.



John McNeill, Chair



Elizabeth Sandoval, Administrative Assistant

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