PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 16, 2018
MINUTES

TIME & PLACE:
The Public Arts Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico met in the conference room in the Administration Annex at 401 McAdoo, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:
The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Sid Bryan.

ATTENDANCE:
Sid Bryan, Tourism
Eduardo Alicea, Art Representative
Cary "Jagger" Gustin, Sierra Arts Council
Andy Underwood, Business Community
Juan Fuentes, City Manager

Other Staff Present: Traci Burnette, Linda Sparks, Secretary
Visitors Present: Linda DeMarino

QUORUM: There being a quorum present, the Board proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Linda Sparks apologized that she was unable to complete the November 13, 2017 minutes in time for this meeting. Minutes were tabled.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:
None

REED ROCKETS SCULPTURE:
Juan stated that he placed this topic on the agenda because the Board was waiting on the grant for MainStreet, but that fell through. Juan asked the Board if they want to continue to hold off on that. Andy commented that he heard that the architect MainStreet hired, Sabina Muñoz, is working on something that nobody knows for sure what it is and that she may still include the Reed Rockets sculpture at the Art Park. They had been planning on that big grant coming in and that was going to be a reclaimed water base and so now that they don't have that, they are regrouping and he doesn't think they really know what is going on with all that yet. Sid added that he heard that too. He had asked Linda DeMarino and she told him that the landscaper, Sabina, hasn't been able to do anything. Sabina may have been here last weekend, but he doesn't know. Sid stated that he guesses there's nothing to do except put it off. Juan
commented that he put it on the agenda because it’s been some time since Jeff finished it, but at the end of the day if the Board just wants to sit on it, he won’t put it on the agenda anymore; or are we just going to bite the bullet and if we want it up, let’s put it up. If we don’t, let’s put it in storage and forget about it. Sid suggested asking Linda, since she and Sazi are in communication with Sabina, to give us at the next meeting a sort of a time schedule, otherwise, it really will just go away completely. Juan reminded everyone that we can’t compensate Jeff until it’s completed. Andy asked if we can consider putting it somewhere else. Jagger stated that at the last MainStreet Board meeting they talked about meeting with Sabina and try to put her on a timeline as to what she thought it would take to finish and submit a preliminary sketch or a maquette of what it might look like and he doesn’t know where they are on that. Also, they talked about meeting with Traci Burnette and talk about a timeline of it. Traci confirmed that they did meet. It is kind of tied into the Clean & Beautiful fund. Juan stated that it is really up to this Board to make that recommendation. It’s been held up long enough. Eventually, at some point, this Board will have to take a firm position on what’s going to happen with this sculpture. Sid replied that we may do that today because Andy took down notes from their trip last week to the city parks. Andy asked Jagger if he feels that Reed Rockets is still going to be used up there, at the Art Park. Jagger answered that he thinks so even though there’s been some issues and questions about the liability of the spring and the mechanism that works and all that. When they met with Sabina, she talked favorably of it and liked it. He anticipates her including it in the plan, but until we see something from her . . . Andy interjected, it could be a long time to come. Sid stated that after last week’s tour, we may want to change that anyway. If at the Healing Waters Plaza, where it wouldn’t be moving necessarily and we eliminate all of those things because we can wax on for meeting after meeting on does it have the right mechanical . . . Andy interjected, with MainStreet out of the picture, all we have to do is please him (Jeff Barbour). We don’t have to please everybody else, right? It would be easier to get it placed, paid for and move on. Sid commented that there are spots in back of the Lee Belle Johnson building . . . Andy interjected, there’re some spots where they can be put up and they might be very attractive and they wouldn’t be in such a place where people are moving around so much.

Jagger reported on the city parks tour. He began by thanking Juan and Linda Sparks in facilitating the tour. Jagger said that it was a really good opportunity for the Board to really see what the city parks look like, see the layout, see the sizes, and where things possibly could fit. It was a very informative tour. Sid agreed. Jagger continued, they saw the Recycling Center, all the parks in the City, the big Ralph Edwards Park that’s been down there forever, and the Rotary Park down by the river. Sid commented that they came up with some possible conclusions that Andy has written down. With that, Sid turned it over to Andy. Andy reported that they thought the Healing Waters Plaza was probably the best place for art because of the location, people already associated with it and there’s some room for some more pieces, some large and some small. It got 5 stars on their tour. Evelyn Renfro Park, there’s some room in the corners of it; there’s room in the front of it for lots of big pieces of art. They did note that the City uses it at Christmas time and they have some blowup balloons. We would have to certainly keep that in mind. They were told that there are no garden clubs, or anything like that, that are associated with the Park. That was a 4 star park for them. The
Recycle Center, there's some places where stuff can be down out there, but it is so far out of town that they didn't feel like it is a viable place at this time, maybe later when there's more money or years down the line after we art up the downtown area more. That was a 1 star stop. The Rodeo Arena, they gave no stars to because it's off the road. They talked about that at the last meeting about how maybe we just needed to have a sign and turn that over to the City and get out of that completely. He thinks we still agree with that. Ralph Edwards Park, 1 star. They don't know that they need to put a bunch of art there; just keep it as it is – one big open space. The Triangle Park, they gave it 4 stars because it has lots of visibility. It may be a good place for something like the Reed Rockets. It's not so accessible to foot traffic even though there's a path going across it. The traffic is a bear on all sides of it, but it's very visible. It would be a great place for art. It was a 4 star stop for them. What they would put there, they didn't really talk a lot about that. Sid added that there was agreement between all of them, and Steve Green was sort of leading in that we get more bang for our buck in any of the ones with the many stars than we do for ones that would do better off with signs and later after we get things done in one area, you may as well have it where people are going to visually get rewarded. Andy stated that Steve was talking about cantilever fishing platforms at Rotary Park. It would be crazy for us to put art in there right now until maybe that plan is realized. It's a great, big, huge, beautiful spot though, but again, it's far from the downtown. Right now, the immediate loop of the downtown is where most of the tourists are. It seems that the center of town is the center of town. Sid continued that there is no art in the Healing Waters Plaza at the moment. It's beautiful to look at, but a couple of pieces would add to it. It's already got a good base there. Evelyn Renfro Park needs something else to give it a little splash, but the people are definitely able to see it there, and the same with the Triangle Park. Andy led the discussion back to the Reed Rockets sculpture. Somebody told him that originally Reed Rockets was going to be put at Triangle Park, before the Art Park. Sid confirmed that was true. Andy stated that it would be great if they could put it up somewhere and get Jeff paid.

Linda DeMarino joined the meeting at this time. Juan suggested that Linda may be able to update the Board on the Art Park and Reed Rockets. Linda stated that Sabina was contacted and Sabina told them it would be 6-8 weeks from the time she was contacted for the conceptual design. Sazi Marri feels like Sabina actually works pretty quickly so she's looking at the end of February. Sid asked Linda what she thought if the Reed Rockets was moved to the Healing Waters Plaza or the Triangle Park. Linda replied that she would love to see it at the Triangle Park. She doesn't think there is a good spot for it at the Healing Waters Plaza. It's a tall thing and you already have the palm trees there. She asked where we thought of putting it. Andy answered that they would be next to the building on the high side behind the shades and around the windows where they have many split system chases running. Linda said that Bill Sletton mentioned that he was going to try to get with Andy about redoing the windows and the doors. Andy said he was told that we weren't going to redo the windows on the backside. That's what Steve told them. Andy asked Steve specifically that the other day. Juan stated that the original window is still there. It is just a matter of taking out the stuff on the outside. Linda remarked that that may not be Steve's plan, but she knows that there are other people who . . . Andy interjected, even if you kept the windows, there's still
room around that building. You don't have to put them all in one spot, you can move them around. Everybody had concerns about this, and if we put them in a spot where they can remain stationary, that would take that out of it. Sid commented that Triangle would be good too and it is where it was originally thought of and it wouldn't be in with too many other things that can take up more space as you enter the downtown. Andy added that the only time there's people there is when we have a good protest going. Juan remarked that 14 reed rockets seem like they would really clutter up that place, it's not that big. Sid responded that the original maquette showed them closer. Andy asked if they all have to be in the same park. Could you put 7 there, 3 there and 4 there? Eduardo commented that we need to ask the artist about that. Andy said that was what his next statement was going to be; we shouldn't dissect the guy's art without asking him. Jagger asked Linda if she knew if Sabina is planning to include them in her conceptual plan. Linda answered that she didn't know. Sid suggested to Linda that she talk to Sabina and see if she is going to stick them in or not, then we'll at least be able to visually see what she comes up with. Juan remarked that the same thing would happen here; they would have to be separated, 14 is a lot. It's a big art piece because they're huge. To put 14 of those around the same area would take a lot of space. Andy agreed, but they could be scattered and they can be used in different ways. As Eduardo said, it's probably important to ask the artist. You know, they're still his. Once they get paid for, I guess you can do anything you want to with them. Until then, they're his. Sid commented he thought Jeff might like them in 3 different places. Andy replied that he might. He thinks 1 or 2 here and there would look rather grand around that building. Spread out at the other place might be too much, might be perfect, he doesn't know. Sid commented that at least Sabina doesn't have to feel like she's tied to anything, right. Andy replied that we really can't do anything until we find out if Sabina has them in her project or not. Sid asked for a motion then to wait for Sabina. Andy moved to wait until Sabina comes back and table it. Jagger seconded the motion to table and it carried.

FYE 2018 ART PROJECT:

Jagger, acknowledging that it wasn’t on the agenda, asked the Chair where the Board is at with the development of the RFP (Request for Proposals). He asked Juan, have you had time to look at that? Juan replied that he thought Jagger had said that a location had to be first selected so that when you put together an RFP, the person would have a better idea how to incorporate it . . . Andy interjected that he thought everybody was reasonably happy with the rough draft and we just need to decide what we’re going to do. So at this time do we need to think about selecting a spot to put more public art or should we wait to see if we can deal with Reed Rockets first. Sid asked Juan if we have more money available. Juan answered, for this coming year, yes. Sid commented that they have 3 spots that got stars and the rest didn’t. Linda DeMarino asked which ones got stars. Sid answered that it was Renfro, Healing Waters Plaza and Triangle. Linda asked if the other one was Rotary. Sid replied that it was Rotary, Rodeo Arena and the Recycle Center. Juan commented that if there is an art piece to be done at the Healing Waters Plaza, there are those spots that always get flooded, that’s an area we can redevelop to incorporate an art piece to cover that up because we have all these problems with that soft area. It could be kind of like a vase, or whatever the sculpture is, not too big, but we can have 2 on each side that would cover up those spots. Andy asked Juan if we have a plan showing those low spots. Juan replied that if that is the
location, those could be the preference sites because we have problem areas with the grass there. Andy commented that they thought about even small pieces in the planters, just jazz it up. Linda stated that in parks, she really would like art that kids can crawl around on too. Andy said we should have a playground for kids to crawl around on, a rock climbing wall. He has a little lawyer in him always thinking liability, liability, liability. Sid agreed too. Andy asked Juan about how much money do we have to spend on public art. Juan replied he doesn’t know if part of it is the balance of the Reed Rockets; we want to say about $4,000.00, but we would have to check. Andy asked that if maybe as a Board they should think about a $2,000.00 piece somewhere or $400-$500 pieces. Jagger suggested that maybe we could split it up and not just do one park, but do two. Sid suggested that it should probably be the Healing Waters Plaza since we want it to be sort of the crown, it should have most of that money and then the other 2 would get smaller amounts. Linda asked if the Board is going to move the Reed Rockets depending on how quickly the Art Park comes about, that may be a consideration as well. Andy replied that we are waiting on Reed Rockets until we hear from the landscape architect if she is going to use it or not. And, we probably should talk to Jeff; tell him we’re going to break it up. Juan stated that the Board selected the Art Park for the Reed Rockets and when the presentation was made to the City Commission, it was always that site and that is what the Commissioners approved. So it’s not really up to Sabina to decide whether she will incorporate it or not. That has already been determined. Does the Board want to speed it up and incorporate it with whatever she is doing and make it happen? The Advisory Board has to take a position to get this thing done. It has been dragging on for some time. Obviously, Jeff is going to want to get paid. The location has already been determined. Sid suggested that the Board make that decision at the next meeting. Sabina will have given an answer. We’re open that if it can’t be there without any more changes, then we may as well move it either to . . . Andy interjected that if we move it, we’ll have to go before the City Commission and ask them if we can move it. Juan asked; why couldn’t it be fit in there? Sid replied that in that spot, it created as many problems as it did benefits. So if there was an easier location, they could start moving ahead on the Art Park and on Art in Public Places. We spent an awful lot of time with it. We should know by the next meeting what Sabina says, then we can move on to another thing. After that tour, that changed our looks and thoughts. I just want to see something happen quicker than it is and this way action can be taken on the Art Park continually while we’re still doing other projects instead of having the whole Art Board just concerned with the Reed Rockets and the Art Park. There’s not very much economy in motion. Andy commented that a wise guy told him the other day that money sitting in a checkbook is worthless, it should be used. Linda asked, and you call it wise? Andy answered, yes; it’s in the economy, it’s helping everybody. Are we going to move on to something else and let Reed Rockets dangle there? Sid replied that it won’t have to dangle anymore. It depends on what we all say. We can also get in touch with the artist to see how he feels so that by the next meeting we should have enough data to decide whether it moves to the other ones or stick with the original thing, but not spend any more time on the things people are worried about it in that location. Andy asked if we have to go before the Commission again. Juan answered that he thinks it would be a good idea eventually to inform the Commission. Juan recommended that if we want to split the money, say take $2,000.00 and move on a project with an RFP at the Healing Waters Plaza, let’s just do that and not talk about any other site. Let’s take care of one site with an RFP and go
through the process. Once the template/process is laid out, then we can easily implement it on something else. Let's focus on the product with an RFP for one project for $2,000.00. Sid asked Juan if he wanted to make that a motion. Juan said he'll make that as a motion. Jagger seconded it and it carried. Linda stated, so we're creating the RFP for $2,000.00 at the Healing Waters Plaza. Do you have any specifics about what you want it made of or the size? That would determine the RFP. Andy replied that we should take Juan's advice and look for a low spot and make it better. If there's a flooding spot, put something on a pedestal and that will take care of that. That's a great idea if we can come up with something like that. For a $2,000.00 piece, that's a pretty big piece of art. Juan remarked that when the RFP is put together, it will be up to the artist to make that proposal. Linda commented that what you're really doing is breaking up the grassy area. You can't play Frisbee in it if it's going to be... Andy interjected, is that where the flooding is, in the grassy area? Juan answered; yes, it's in the far end. Sid commented that you don't want anybody playing Frisbee there anyway. Juan added that he doesn't think it's safe to be playing Frisbee there anyway. Sid agreed. Andy commented that if we decide to do that, it will be really easy for us to walk over there and take a better look now that we know that the 5 star park is going to get a $2,000.00 art project. Maybe the Board should go back over there and get on the physical plain and look at it. Jagger commented that there are several sites that lend itself to art, not just the one place. Juan asked if you have to designate the area, why not just get a proposal. Linda stated that designating the area determines the size. If you are going to put it in a planter, it's going to be a much smaller thing than it would be if it's out. Andy recommended giving a roundabout size and say that it's to be determined depending on what the proposals are, right or is that crazy? Eduardo suggested giving the artists the dimensions and that way it won't be too big for the space later on. Sid said we can also show them where it is. He also said that Joe Waldrum would have a small painting and put it on a huge wall because that painting was able to hold the wall. There were some other paintings that were very large and it would be on a large wall and it wouldn't fit, sometimes it would fit too. You don't have to restrict whether you give the artist space this big or double the size of where we are; it doesn't necessarily mean that what they build to make it hold your eye has to be big because it's in a bigger space. It can still sometimes be small and be so attractive that it's going to get more interesting. Andy asked if we're considering a mural on the wall. Sid replied that he didn't know if we could touch that building. Linda answered no, it's a historic building. Juan stated that he would have to check with SHPO, State Historic Preservation Office. Sid said that using the $2,000.00 would be part of that too, that wall needs to be repaired. Steve Green was going on about that, where the paint is falling off of it. That would be a double bang for your buck. Linda added that the way the trumpet vines are planted along the back pillars and they are starting to grow, once they keep growing, they will have less visibility probably back there as well. Eduardo asked Linda if she had some ideas of good spots to put artwork there. Linda replied that she will walk over to the Plaza with the Board and look at it. She mentioned that there are a couple of opportunities: in those rocks there's possibility and in the planters there's possibility. Andy remarked that the whole place is nothing but possibilities. He doesn't know if we need to pick a spot or have an artist come in and pick a spot. Eduardo stated that you need to think of when you have activities there, that they are not in the way of the crowds. Sid commented that if you have a plat that shows places where we can't do it because of something underground, we can narrow the spaces
down and just be inclusive with as many as we can put there and then let the artist pick. Eduardo responded that he thinks we should decide on which area for the artwork and then the artist can focus on that spot. If you give them unlimited space, they all want to get creative and decide which . . . Sid interjected; then it's up to us to approve one of those.

Sid asked if we should adjourn the meeting and then go to the Plaza to look. Juan Fuentes moved to adjourn, Andy Underwood seconded it and it carried.

Linda Sparks reminded the Board that they needed to schedule the next meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD:**

No other comments other than the ones made during the discussions recorded above were made.

**TIME, PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

One Board member stated he would not be here until the 5th of February. Linda DeMarino added that Sabina won't have the conceptual design ready until the end of February so March would be a good time. The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2018, at 4:00 P.M. at the Administration Annex.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M. Juan Fuentes moved to adjourn, seconded by Andy Underwood and it carried.

**ATTEST:**

Minutes were approved on March 20, 2018 on a motion made by Juan Fuentes and seconded by Jagger Gustin, and it carried.

[Signature]

Linda Sparks
Secretary