City of Las Vegas

COMMISSION FOR THE LAS VEGAS CENTENNIAL
CITY HALL, 400 STEWART AVENUE
CITY CLERK’S FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES
October 17, 2011
3:00 PM

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SCHEDULED FOR ACTION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY NOTED OTHERWISE. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON. TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY BE COMBINED; AND ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED OR RELATED DISCUSSION MAY BE DELAYED AT ANY TIME.

DUPLICATE AUDIO CDS MAY BE AVAILABLE AT A COST OF $5.00 PER CD THROUGH THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:
CHAIR GOODMAN called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR GOODMAN and MEMBERS ARNOLD (excused from the meeting until 3:37 p.m.), STOLDAL, RALENKOTTER (via tele-conference) and COFFIN

EXCUSED: MEMBERS BARLOW, BRYAN, BROWN, CASHMAN, FELDMAN and PIKE

ALSO PRESENT: ESTHER CARTER, Executive Director, SCOTT ADAMS, Chief Urban Redevelopment Officer, TED OLIVAS, Director of Administrative Services, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO and DEPUTY CITY CLERK GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER

2. ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW

Minutes:
ANNOUNCEMENT MADE - Meeting noticed and posted at the following locations: City Clerk's Bulletin Board, City Hall Plaza, 2nd Floor Skybridge; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; Bulletin Board, City Hall Plaza (next to Metro Records)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

Minutes:
None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the July 18, 2011 meeting

Motion made by COUNCILMAN BOB COFFIN to Approve
5. Report regarding the fiscal year budget 2011/2012

Minutes:
JOE WILLIAMS, Department of Finance, updated the Commission on the state of the budget using a handout entitled Budget to Actual Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012, a copy of which was submitted for the minutes. The year started with an ending fund balance of $1.5 million, including the collection of over $444,000 in license plate revenues for the third quarter ending in 2011. With minimal expenditures of approximately $216,000 for the year and potential future expenditures of approximately $315,000, the ending fund balance will be approximately $300,000. CHAIR GOODMAN verified with MR. WILLIAMS if the ending fund balance is comparable to Fiscal Year 2010/2011. MR. WILLIAMS added that license plate sales have been very successful.

MEMBER STOLDAL asked if this budget includes the funding of $75,000 for the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC). EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARTER stated that no funding was allocated this year for the HPC. MEMBER STOLDAL indicated that it is an annual allocation, and he asked that staff look into it and report on it at a later meeting of the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial.

MEMBER COFFIN stressed that he likes to see the budget by line item and that any funding for the HPC should have been included in the budget handout for the previous fiscal year. MR. WILLIAMS explained that the monies carried over from the last budget year, so perhaps the funding was expended the previous year and not allocated in the last budget year. The funding might have to be added in the future. MEMBER STOLDAL interjected that it might not have been accounted for as a separate line item if it falls under the category of general grants. MR. WILLIAMS indicated that general grants typically include smaller amounts.

MEMBER COFFIN confirmed with MR. WILLIAMS that if the receipts for license plate sales stay true for the next three quarters funding will be ahead about $215,000. MEMBER COFFIN stated he would prefer to see actual amounts rather than estimates. MR. WILLIAMS explained that he is expecting an updated report from the Nevada Department of Transportation on license plates sales.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding a grant request in the amount of $150,000 from Mark Hall-Patton, on behalf of the Clark County Museum, to complete the restoration of the Las Vegas Railroad Cottage at the Clark County Museum

Motion made by ROBERT STOLDAL to Approve a matching-fund grant amount of $25,000

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

Minutes:
MARK HALL-PATTON, Clark County Museum, thanked the Commission for its previous contributions, including $100,000, some of which was used for the Railroad Cottage at the Clark County Museum. Most of the work has been completed, but in order to open to the public, additional funding is needed to make the cottage seismically safe and to add a Plexiglas partition. Once it is open, the visitors will be able to look into the cottage and a narrator will tell its history. He hopes this will be his final request for funding and indicated that he submitted to City staff a detailed estimate, breaking down how the $150,000 will be used.

MEMBER COFFIN confirmed with MR. HALL-PATTON that the cottage was moved and was astonished at the amount of money that has been spent to date on this cottage. MR. HALL-PATTON attributed the delay in opening and added costs to changes in the building code, which required seismic proofing. He requested an exemption to seismic proofing, but only...
received an exemption for ADA accessibility because the cottage is a concrete structure. He noted that moving historic buildings is very expensive.

MR. HALL-PATTON indicated to CHAIR GOODMAN that Clark County and the State of Nevada contributed some funding, but the State had to pull its most recent funding for the cottage due to its economic issues.

MEMBER STOLDAL commented that he is generally in support, but he preferred to look at the full report first. He then verified with MR. HALL-PATTON that signage would be posted giving credit to the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial for the opening of the Cottage and that the City of Henderson has not contributed any funding for the cottage. MR. HALL-PATTON indicated the County contributed approximately $30,000 toward the total to-date cost of $330,000 in renovation costs. CHIEF URBAN REDEVELOPMENT OFFICER SCOTT ADAMS observed that the renovation has cost about $330 a square foot, which is a very good price, compared to the renovations of the Mob Museum building, which also required seismic proofing.

MEMBER STOLDAL indicated that the City was in danger of losing all the railroad cottages. The City of Las Vegas had nowhere to place the cottages, so the County Museum offered to work with this project, so he felt uncomfortable penalizing the Clark County Museum and not approving any funding.

MEMBER COFFIN stressed that the County should provide more funding for this County project. He could not support granting any funds before seeing the full report.

ESTHER CARTER, Executive Director, noted that in 2005, saving the cottages was very important to the Centennial Committee. MR. HALL-PATTON pointed out that out of four or five cottages this cottage is more intact.

MEMBER STOLDAL explained to CHAIR GOODMAN that although the Springs Preserve took four Railroad Cottages, it will only restore and open one to the public.

MEMBER STOLDAL asked MR. HALL-PATTON if he could find some matching funds.

MR. HALL-PATTON discussed with CHAIR GOODMAN the revenues derived from the fees charged for the various exhibits at the County Museum.

CHAIR GOODMAN asked for staff's recommendation. MS. CARTER responded that $150,000 is a lot of money to be granting when it is approximately $300,000 will be left in the budget after all expenditures.

CHAIR GOODMAN said it would be nice if MR. HALL-PATTON could raise the funding through a matching fund or a private/public partnership. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO pointed out that it is not uncommon for the Centennial Commission to issue funding with the requirement that the amount be matched.

MEMBER RALENKOTTER stated that if there is no time crunch on this project MR. HALL-PATTON could apply to the Nevada Commission on Tourism, which makes grants quarterly.

MR. HALL-PATTON indicated to CHAIR GOODMAN that the requested funding is for the bare minimum to open the cottage. He cannot cut anywhere. His staff members are already doing as much as they can to save in costs.

MS. CARTER suggested the Commission consider a $75,000 matching-fund grant and confirmed with MEMBER RALENKOTTER that the Nevada Commission on Tourism has granted up to that amount.

MEMBERS COFFIN and STOLDAL discussed granting a reduced amount. MEMBER COFFIN stated that without having all the information and this project being in Henderson, he felt comfortable granting $25,000. He asked MR. HALL-PATTON to scale down the project. MR. HALL-PATTON assured MEMBER COFFIN that he could not cut more without making the cottage uncomfortable.

MEMBER STOLDAL stated that in the past the members of the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial have considered it as a board that takes care of the Valley. He then proposed a matching grant of $25,000 be approved. MR. HALL-PATTON can come back at the next meeting of the Centennial Commission and report on any additional funding raised and
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cuts to the project. At that time the Commission can possibly make further considerations. CHAIR GOODMAN also requested that short- and long-term timelines be provided.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY PONTICELLO pointed out that in the past applicants have been required to present a letter attesting receipt of matching grants.

CHAIR GOODMAN indicated that she would be willing to sign a letter inviting the other local jurisdictions to the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial help raising fund.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding a grant request in the amount of $75,000 from James Braun on behalf of the Atomic Testing Museum, to develop research and fabricate an 18-month dynamic, unique, interactive, educational exhibit entitled Area 51: Myth or Reality

Motion made by ROBERT STOLDAL to Approve a grant amount of $37,500

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, COUNCILMAN BOB COFFIN, RYAN ARNOLD, ROBERT STOLDAL, ROSSI RALENKOTTER; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(RICHARD BRYAN, COUNCILMAN RICKI Y. BARLOW, HANNAH BROWN, TIM CASHMAN, ALAN FELDMAN, JANE PIKE)

Minutes:
On behalf of JAMES BRAUN, KAREN GREEN, Curator of the Atomic Testing Museum, requested funding for this exciting exhibit on Area 51, and she submitted a flyer, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes. She mentioned some of the collaborators in this project, including Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air Force Base, GEORGE KNAPP, the reporter, COLONEL JOHN ALEXANDER and a number of military personnel.

The four-year tourism survey shows that tourists are very interested in Area 51 and is one of the areas that tourists indicate would bring them back to Las Vegas, the gateway to Area 51. Various documentary channels and local channels are interested in this exhibit. MS. GREEN stated the survey shows that more than 18,000 people will come to Las Vegas to visit the exhibit.

MEMBER COFFIN asked for a concept. MS. GREEN indicated that the entire concept is on DVD, but she could not present it. She then submitted the proposed budget, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes. She explained that the original budget was cut from $150,000 to $115,000 with in-kind donations. MEMBER COFFIN indicated the document submitted does not show where the monies will be spent, and it is for the entire museum not this exhibit alone. MS. GREEN indicated to CHAIR GOODMAN that funding in the amount of $37,000 was received from other organizations and individual donors.

To address CHAIR GOODMAN’S concern regarding museum capacity, MS. GREEN indicated that the visitors will be timed. She added that Tours to Area 51 are not a part of this exhibit; that is already being done by an independent company.

The intent is to opening January 2012.

Since this is a tourist attraction, MEMBER STOLDAL suggested application be made to the Nevada Commission on Tourism for a grant.

For CHAIR GOODMAN, MS. GREEN indicated the $65,000 Exhibit entry in the Proposed Budget includes design and the elements of the exhibit.

KATHLEEN FRANTZ, Museum Development Director, interjected that this exhibit will be of the highest quality with major focus on the scientific side that very few tourists and residents have seen. It will include technological advances made at Area 51. Many of the museum visitors consider the museum the highlight of their trip. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority members have toured the museum and they were so impressed with it that they are helping to promote it.

MEMBER STOLDAL agreed that the tourists queried responded that they would like to see an Area 51 component at the Museum. MS. GREEN indicated to CHAIR GOODMAN that the exhibit will be able to travel to other museums.
ESTHER CARTER, Executive Director, commented that she was very impressed with the Atomic Museum. Being that the exhibit can travel to other museums will help to highlight Las Vegas.

With some of the monies already committed from other entities, MEMBER STOLDAL was leaning toward approving $40,000. MS. GREEN stated that she would do what she could with that amount, adding that she already petitioned other jurisdictions for money, but they do not have any money to give. MS. CARTER indicated for CHAIR GOODMAN that there are sufficient funds in the 2011/2012 budget for the full requested grant.

MS. GREEN advised CHAIR GOODMAN that last year the Centennial Commission granted the Museum $50,000 to build Atomic Las Vegas, which increased local visitation by 20 percent. Atomic Las Vegas has been featured in newspaper articles from Hawaii to New York. Parts of the exhibition are going to Los Alamos, New Mexico. MEMBER COFFIN said if these exhibitions are going to receive support from the Commission, some type of ownership should be retained. MS. GREEN clarified that the exhibit will not be given away. It is just loaned for exhibition in Los Alamos. MS. FRANTZ commented that the main part of the museum is permanent, but the exhibits have to rotate in order to create interest.

MEMBER STOLDAL could not believe that the City of Henderson will not make a contribution when it is considering spending approximately $30,000 to build a science museum.

MEMBER ARNOLD asked that a presentation be made at the next meeting.

ERIC WRIGHT, Museum Events Coordinator, interjected that this exhibit includes a solid 18-month program of different events and lectures, as well as festivals that will bring thousands of national and international visitors.

MEMBER COFFIN said he was concerned about not receiving any details prior to the meeting. MS. CARTER explained that because the grant applications are voluminous, she would provide a summary of the applications, but she will start submitting the entire grant applications so that the Commissioners can have all the information. CHAIR GOODMAN indicated that it is necessary to have all the information when monies are so scarce. MEMBER STOLDAL shared the sentiments of CHAIR GOODMAN, adding that he would like the conference room set up for presentations for all meetings.

MS. CARTER pointed out that there are very specific guidelines for issuing Las Vegas Centennial grants.

MS. GREEN stated that at least $37,500 of the $115,000 needed has been secured from other entities. There are many outstanding grant applications.

After the vote, MEMBER RALENKOTTER suggested a meeting with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. MS. FRANTZ indicated she would be calling MEMBER RALENKOTTER to schedule a meeting.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding a grant request in the amount of $15,000 from Les Smith, on behalf of the J.D. Smith Family home, to replace the original door and windows

Motion made by MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN to Strike

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6
MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, COUNCILMAN BOB COFFIN, RYAN ARNOLD, ROBERT STOLDAL, ROSSI RALENKOTTER; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(RICHARD BRYAN, COUNCILMAN RICKI Y. BARLOW, HANNAH BROWN, TIM CASHMAN, ALAN FELDMAN, JANE PIKE)

Minutes:
LES SMITH JR. passed out pictures, copies of which were not submitted as backup documentation, of the project. He explained that the family home is located in the Historic District. Unfortunately, the property is being managed by a property management company that removed the original oak door and several of the windows without permission, which altered distinguishing features of the home. His father and aunt paid $180,000 in 1987 in renovations to be able to place the home in the registry.
At the suggestion of former MAYOR OSCAR GOODMAN, an insurance claim was filed, but the claim was denied because there was no direct physical damage to the home that caused replacement of the door and windows. The home has been leased by lawyers since 1987.

To hire an artisan to remanufacture the door and the original look of the windows, it would cost $15,000. He indicated to MEMBER COFFIN that the City should provide assistance because the house is in the Historic District and is part of the heritage of Las Vegas.

MEMBER COFFIN asked if the house has been removed from the registry because of the alterations and suggested the people that made the unauthorized alterations pay for the repairs. MR. SMITH JR. indicated that it is still on the registry and agreed that there should be some accountability, but he felt that it would cost too much in legal fees.

After confirming with MR. SMITH JR. that the alterations were made at the request of the current tenants, CHAIR GOODMAN suggested MR. SMITH JR. contract with a pro bono attorney to speak with the tenants, who are attorneys, and have a nice conversation with them. Because it is a historical building, the tenants might feel inclined to make monthly payments until the full amount is paid to make the restorations. MR. SMITH JR. could come back at a later date and report on the outcome. MEMBER COFFIN agreed that MR. SMITH JR. should seek financial assistance from the lawyers. LES SMITH SR. stated the property managers think they have done nothing wrong.

ESTHER CARTER, Executive Director, interjected that any alterations to properties on the National Register of Historic Places could jeopardize that status.

MEMBER STOLDAL asked MS. CARTER if a precedent would be set if the Commission were to grant public funds to a private home. He wondered if a covenant would have to be placed on the property prohibiting anything to be done to the structure, similar to what the State does. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO interjected that there was a covenant placed on the grant to the Mesquite Club through deed of trust, restricting the property. MEMBER STOLDAL commented that the Mesquite Club is a meeting place, not a home. MS. CARTER stated that the grant application includes the rules for City-owned and non City-owned properties.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding a grant request in the amount of $75,000 from Courtney Mooney, on behalf of the City of Las Vegas, for the Floyd Lamb Adobe project to rehabilitate and preserve the building

Motion made by ROBERT STOLDAL to Approve a grant amount of $21,150.00

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6
MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, COUNCILMAN BOB COFFIN, RYAN ARNOLD, ROBERT STOLDAL, ROSSI RALENKOTTER; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(RICHARD BRYAN, COUNCILMAN RICKI Y. BARLOW, HANNAH BROWN, TIM CASHMAN, ALAN FELDMAN, JANE PIKE)

Minutes:
COURTNEY MOONEY, Planning, requested the reduced amount of $21,150, as the proposal came in at a lesser amount than originally requested. The final report will indicate what it will take to completely restore the structure in order to provide access to the public. After the cost estimates are received, additional grant applications to other entities can be submitted.

MS. MOONEY indicated to MEMBER COFFIN that the adobe is partially collapsed. There is a protective structure and a portion of the historic roof remains on the structure. These pieces could be restored and reused. The park charges an admission fee of $6 per vehicle.

MEMBER COFFIN cautioned MS. MOONEY to use traditional methods in restoring the building because shortcuts cannot be taken with adobe, which must be maintained frequently. MS. MOONEY indicated that this has been taken into consideration. The intent is to create a learning experience and have the children make adobe bricks.

10. Report by Scott Adams regarding the bond issues for the Westside School project
Minutes:
CHIEF URBAN REDEVELOPMENT OFFICER SCOTT ADAMS updated the Commissioners on the issuance of bonds for the Westside School project. Rather than issue bonds just for this project, $4 million was included in a much bigger bond issue of the City for a wide range of projects, making it more cost effective. The exact interest rate and terms are unknown until the bond issue is sold.

MEMBER ARNOLD asked how much of a difference in savings. MR. ADAMS could not respond exactly, but stressed that it is more feasible to include the bonds in the larger bond issue. The savings will probably be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars over the life of the bond issue.

11. Discussion for possible action to ratify a grant agreement between the Nevada State Museum and the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial for the purchase of Las Vegas History books in the amount of $5,000

Motion made by RYAN ARNOLD to Approve

Passed For: 4; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, COUNCILMAN BOB COFFIN, RYAN ARNOLD, ROSSI RALENKOTTER; Against-(None); Abstain-(ROBERT STOLDAL); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(RICHARD BRYAN, RICKI Y. BARLOW, HANNAH BROWN, TIM CASHMAN, ALAN FELDMAN, JANE PIKE)

NOTE: After confirming with DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO, MEMBER STOLDAL disclosed that he would be abstaining because he receives $60 a quarter for sitting on the Nevada State Museum Board.

Minutes:
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO indicated that MEMBER STOLDAL would be making the presentation because no one was present to make it. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that Arcadia Publications put together a photo essay of the earliest days of Las Vegas from 1905-1965.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY PONTICELLO stated the application for $5,000 was received 9/2010. It was an urgent request from the Nevada Cultural Affairs Foundation. At the time of the request, the Centennial Commission was not meeting until its quarterly meeting; therefore, ELIZABETH FRETWELL, as the President, approved the grant request, subject to bringing it to the Commission for approval, because the books had to be prepared for distribution.

MEMBER STOLDAL indicated to CHAIR GOODMAN that the books retail at $19.95 and will be given to attendees of the Nevada Governor's Dedication Ceremony at the State Museum in November. About 350 books were printed and the remainder will be sold.

12. Quarterly Report by Executive Director on centennial projects

Minutes:
ESTHER CARTER, Executive Director, thanked the Commissioners for continuing to serve on the commission. The next meeting is scheduled for 1/30/2012, so she wished everyone Happy Holidays.

She mentioned the invitation to the dedication of the Helen Stewart Statue was made possible in part by Centennial funds.

13. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

Minutes:
None.

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14. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

Esther Carter, Executive Director

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerk’s office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. The City’s TDD number is 386-9108.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
City Hall Plaza, 400 Stewart Avenue, Vending Area
City Clerk’s Bulletin Board, 400 Stewart Avenue, 2nd Floor Skybridge
Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North
Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue