

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS HISTORY AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 5, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Fountain Hills History and Culture Advisory Commission was convened at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains in open and public session at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Tim Yoder; Commissioner Bob Burns; Commissioner Peter Gallagher; Commissioner Bonnie Kline; Commissioner Bonnie LePoer; Commissioner Chandler Harper; Commissioner Tiffany Titus

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Recreation Manager Ryan Preston; Executive Assistant Paula Woodward



Post-Production File

Town of Fountain Hills
History and Culture Advisory Commission Meeting
November 5, 2025

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YODER: -- two new members of the commission, Tiffany Titus and Chandler Harper, and would invite you to give a brief introduction of yourselves, if you would like. You have to first push the red button down and --

PRESTON: The button on the right is the -- will be red.

TITUS: I prepared some things. I knew it was going to be recorded. Thank you, council members -- or commission members. This is so exciting. So my name is Tiffany Titus. And I don't necessarily feel like reading all of this, but I'm just very happy to be here. I'm an executive board member of the ilovefountainhills.org group, Fountain Hills Cultural & Civic Organization [sic], and recent Leadership Academy graduate in 2024. I've lived in Fountain Hills for almost six years now and absolutely love our town, and it's just an honor to be able to serve on this commission. Thank you very much.

YODER: Thank you. And now for Chandler.

HARPER: I don't have any prepared remarks, but I'm Chandler Harper. I've lived here since 2020, here in Fountain Hills. I'm also very happy to be here. Very excited to work with you all. Some background on myself, I'm a licensed attorney here in Arizona, but work primarily on transactional items throughout the country, mainly dealing with high net worth individuals and real estate developers, specifically on a lot of historic development projects and things like that. So hoping to bring some of that knowledge to the table here. And I'm also a certified financial planner. I have my CFP designation as well. So a lot of financial analysis that I utilize with the legal side and hope that I can be of some use here as well. So looking forward to it.

YODER: All right. Thank you very much. With that, Ms. Paula, could we have a roll call, please?

WOODWARD: Chair Yoder?

YODER: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Burns?

BURNS: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Gallagher?

GALLAGHER: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Kline?

KLINE: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner LePoer?

LEPOER: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Harper?

HARPER: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Titus?

TITUS: Here.

YODER: All right. Thank you. Our next order of business is to welcome Ryan Preston, who is here always, and going to give us a presentation today. Thank you.

PRESTON: All right. This one will be pretty quick. Just as promised, this is about the new QR code system we're using for the public art walks and tracking that and adding stories and kind of bringing that into, I would love to say the 21st century, but I think we're getting into the 20th at this point. We're still catching up, but we -- right now, our website basically has a Google map on it with pinpointed locations with some information about all the public art pieces. You can find that on the town website.

We recently started working with a group called SeeMyLegacy, who kind of just has a neater way to house these art walks, and we're also adding points of interest to that. So the ones that you guys have designated, we're also adding to this walk, and we'll be adding more things as we go. Right now, the town has purchased about, I think, a hundred QR codes, which won't even cover all the public art that we have in town. All those QR codes will be placed on -- whether the art statues or the plaques we end up creating for our main points of interest and historical places that this commission has identified around town to be recognized. So this is just going to be a quick look at that.

This is kind of our home page. Most people won't see this. We're going to link directly to a lot of our campaigns and community stories. But let's do the SeeMyLegacy. We're going to look at our campaigns here. These are the only two public ones we have right now. Right now, it's just the Centennial Circle Art Walk and then a few of the

historical markers. Anybody recognize what that is? Yeah. So that's the dam there. So what will happen is -- let's go ahead and -- oh, I'm logged in. Let me log out of this campaign, actually. Let me go on the user end here, if it'll let me. Nope. So I'm just going to log out. Okay. So this is what the user end is going to look like. You can begin the tour. So there'll be one QR code at each main location that we have everything. So there'll be one main plot QR, main plaque at Centennial Circle, that'll be for the information that is about the art walk, the art in that area, and then all the smaller QR codes on each individual art piece. There'll be one for every main area that we're attacking, and that's Centennial Circle. That's our -- that's the avenue, that's Fountain Park right now, our three main targets.

So as you zoom in, as I zoom in, so what you're looking at now is our overlook of Centennial Circle. Again, you can zoom in as much as you want here. There are two that are swapped, so if you notice two in the wrong places, I am aware and will -- know that. So you click on it, you can open it up. And what it does, it gives you the art piece. It gives you the history about the artist who made it, or as much information as we have right now about the artists, and then about the piece as well. You can always go back to the tour overview. You can X out and continue, kind of, your walk through. And this is pretty much just what it looks right now. We are adding a few more things to it. Toni will be working together with your work group on any information I'm missing for a lot of these, or if we want to add more information. A lot of the artists are repeat artists, so you'll see them appearing a few times.

And then you also see this if you scan any of those individual QR codes. So right now, if you scan the QR code that will be on this piece, entitled *Truth*, this information will pop right up in front of you, and then we'll have a link to go to the main map to be able to see where everything else is as well. So that's one of the many uses we've got for this. The QR codes are also going to be associated with those -- the verbiage and the maps and the things that you guys created for Fountain Park as well. So these are being added to those, which are actively being worked on right now. And so these QR codes you're going to start seeing popping up everywhere. And that'll be the idea. We want

to train everybody who lives here if you see this QR code, if you see the town logo, the Parks and Rec logo on it, scan it, you're going to get some great information and hopefully a way we can disseminate all that information to everyone.

Let me go back real quick and see if I can get to historical markers. Right now, we just have the five. We are still working on contacting a few of the places just for privacy issues, as well as willingness to put a plaque up on or near their business. They are privately owned, right? So the first house, for example, or the -- I think a few of the other locations. So if we look here, these are kind of the spots around town. Anybody tell me which one that one might be? Or that one might be. Does anybody remember the five that we targeted for the first go-round?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that the elementary school?

PRESTON: So this one's going to be the first house, I believe. So that's the first house.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Across the street.

PRESTON: Yeah. From the old elementary school. Yep. So and a lot of these we don't have a ton of information yet. A ton of it put out just because we haven't been able to go and seek permission to get everything out for some of these. So that's the P-Bar Ranch at the high school. First developer, sales and reception center. I'm just kind of -- I don't know what I just did here. Go back to the map view. We've got the model home center, and I keep somehow clicking out of it, and the dam. Yep. So they're all there, and they will eventually all have their own plaques and everything. Again, we're just working out a few details with that. So I just want to let you know it's something we're doing. We're actively working on the art. Work group is going to help us identify more information about some pieces that are lacking information as well.

So any questions on what we're doing so far? We've got most of the avenue done. We just don't have them really geolocated very well yet. So we have somebody going out just making sure we're mapping exactly where all the pieces are so we get the maps accurate.

GALLAGHER: So how does one access all of this information?

PRESTON: So this information will at some point be on our public art website. Right

now, the public art website still has all the older stuff on it. The information is still accurate, it's just a little outdated as far as the technology involved with how you access it. There will also be -- you can scan a QR code with your phone at any of the art pieces, and this will pull up as well.

LEPOER: But not yet, right?

PRESTON: Not yet. They're not on there yet. The only ones that actually has the QR code right now are -- the entrance to the Botanical Gardens has one, and I'm not sure, but we -- if it hasn't gone up, it will be soon. The dam will have one. Obviously that's town property, so we can put that without any permissions.

TITUS: Is there a way I can get access to that? So when I start working with the group, we can start looking through the items and the information that we have?

PRESTON: So yeah, I'll send you the link. I don't know if I can give you the back-end access --

TITUS: Okay.

PRESTON: -- so you may have to just send me --

TITUS: Oh, yeah.

PRESTON: -- the updates and I'll add it, but I'll get you the link for this so that you can --

TITUS: Thank you.

PRESTON: Yeah, definitely look at everything.

KLINE: So I have a question. How hard would it be to put this onto an app that people could click on on their phone?

PRESTON: Yep. Very difficult. We don't have an app. And so to have -- we don't have an app to host it. And the company itself does not have an app that will be branded to us. It is very mobile friendly. That's why we use it. When -- if you look it up on a mobile device, it's very clean. It'll read and play like an app, but there is no, no app currently associated with it just because, again, the town doesn't have an app. Anything else? Perfect.

YODER: Thank you. Ryan.

PRESTON: Yep. No problem. We'll close out of that and we can move on.

YODER: Very good. Moving on to reports by commissioners. Anybody have anything to offer up? First off, I'd like to mention I received a notice that Michael Gant will be doing a presentation next week, I believe, at the community center on the history of Fountain Hills. I wrote it down. November 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the community center. So that -- that's looked interesting to me, and I'm planning on attending that. Anybody else got anything coming up or you heard of here in Fountain Hills that's not on the agenda?

Okay. Our art fair is coming up, too, I believe. Right around the corner.

LEPOER: I think it's the 16th.

YODER: The 14th through the 16th.

LEPOER: 14th through the 16th.

YODER: Thank you, Toni.

GALLAGHER: As of next week.

YODER: All right. Now, consideration and action. Excuse me?

PRESTON: I would -- just a quick call to the public.

YODER: Oh, I missed the call to the public. I'm sorry. Seeing that we didn't have any members of the public present, I -- forgive me. No members of the public want to speak?

WOODWARD: No, Chair.

YODER: All right. Next up, the appointment of a chair for the History and Culture Advisory Commission. Can we have a nomination, or do I just go into nominations? I'd like to nominate, for example, Bob Burns to take over the position.

KLINE: I'll second that.

BURNS: Is that just an example?

YODER: Oh, my goodness.

LEPOER: I'd like to second that motion.

YODER: Anybody want to nominate anybody else? Can we take a vote on this?

WOODWARD: Yes.

YODER: All in favor of Bob Burns taking over as chairman?

ALL: Aye.

YODER: Any opposed? All right.

WOODWARD: Seven-zero.

YODER: Seven-zero. Next item will be --

PRESTON: Okay. Well, actually now we'll do our --

YODER: Now we do the --

PRESTON: -- our swapping of chairs here. Yes. We're actually going to have -- Bob, you get to take over -- or Commissioner Burns, you get to take over right away. There is a little paper there to help guide you.

YODER: Bob, I'm going to leave my piece of paper right here --

PRESTON: I feel like I should --

YODER: -- in case you want to remember who was here before you.

PRESTON: I feel like I should maybe hum some theme music or something, but.

BURNS: Want your water?

YODER: I've got my own.

BURNS: Oh, okay.

PRESTON: Perfect. And Chair Burns, you can either say a couple of things if you'd like, or carry on with the next agenda item, it's up to you.

BURNS: Well, let's just move on. And consideration -- do I have any nominations or motions for vice chair?

TITUS: I'd like to nominate Toni LePoer to serve as vice chairman.

KLINE: I can second that.

BURNS: Any other nominations? Okay. All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

YODER: Okay. Any opposed?

WOODWARD: Seven-zero.

BURNS: Perfect.

PRESTON: You're technically already in the right seat --

LEPOER: Yeah.

PRESTON: -- I believe, so you're good to go. You don't have to go anywhere.

BURNS: Okay. Moving on. Consideration of approval of History and Culture Advisory Commission minutes from October 1st. Do we have a motion on that or any comments?

GALLAGHER: I'll move to approve.

LEPOER: I'll second that.

BURNS: Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

BURNS: Opposed?

WOODWARD: Seven-zero.

BURNS: Okay. Next, update on the historic registry for the fountain. Ryan, do we have anything on that?

PRESTON: Yep. No, I left that up. Just a reminder that we do have our hearing for that for the State on November 21st. Downtown. I think I sent that information out. If I didn't, I will send it again following this meeting. You're welcome to attend, if you'd like, in person. There's also a -- you can attend virtually as well. Just if you are going to attend, let me know. Just so if there's four of you, I need to have a quorum notice for it. So just let me know if you want to go downtown and attend that. That will be deciding whether or not we're going to get our State approval and move on to -- recommended for National approval.

LEPOER: What time is it?

PRESTON: I believe it is 9:30.

HARPER: What date was that?

PRESTON: November 21st. I believe it's a Friday.

WOODWARD: Yes.

PRESTON: And I'll send that out again, and I'll send the virtual link out as well so you have that. Other than that, I have no updates on that.

YODER: Would you think that it's important if we can try to be there in person? Or is this an administrative --

BURNS: I have planned to ask Dr. Collins (ph.) that exact question. I'll reach out to him. I don't know if Commissioner Harper has dealt with any of this before. But I don't know

that it'll affect it one way or the other. It can't hurt for somebody to be there, but I don't think it's going to affect the outcome at all.

BURNS: All right. Well, let's look forward to that. And hopefully they can get that moved on. All right. Discussion, possible action regarding 250th anniversary of the USA. I know that work group has not had a chance to get together, but Bonnie, did you have anything? I think I saw an email from you.

PRESTON: I could probably jump in real quick first. So I was -- we've been working with economic development and tourism on that as well, on doing -- planning a few things. And we went back in to start applying for the Passport250 and it was closed.

KLINE: Oh.

PRESTON: They didn't announce an end date. They never had an end date. But apparently, the submissions have ended.

KLINE: Oh, that's too bad.

PRESTON: It is. So we weren't able to get anything in for that. I don't know how big it's going to be. The Secretary of State hasn't really -- office hasn't pushed it out very much. There's not a lot, I think, of press on it quite yet. So I don't know how many actually got submitted, but they did close. And so yeah. Just to update you on that one.

KLINE: Okay. Well, we'll work on something else then. But if they do extend it, hopefully the copy that I submitted will help.

PRESTON: And to update you, we are meeting internally again on Monday with the town to come up with more ideas. I've discussed a lot of our ideas. For example, the banners up along the avenue. We are hoping to be able to move forward with that idea. So getting 250th celebration banners up. We have discussed reaching out and trying to put out some sort of source of material for all the different groups who are going to be putting something on. We discussed that as well, like, putting like a one- or two-sheeter together of all the different groups in town who are trying to do or who are putting on events so that we have one place everybody can go to see all the different events that are going on, even if they're not town-run. So we will be moving forward with that. And that might be something I might be asking with help on in the upcoming meetings as

well.

TITUS: Is there an opportunity for commissioners to participate in that working group, or is the working group closed?

PRESTON: The working group right now, so that work group -- do we have three members of that work group is a great question.

GALLAGHER: Bonnie and I.

PRESTON: We have two. So we can -- it has possible actions. So we can have another member of that work group join. I don't know that we need to do anything formal for a work group, so we can add you to that workgroup. Perfect. So I'll make a note that now it'll be the three members.

TITUS: Thank you.

PRESTON: And I can share what information. And just so you know, for our new members, you guys can have an email string of the three of you. Anything more than that is considered a quorum, so you wouldn't be able to communicate outside of that, which is why all of our work groups are in groups of three or less. So just keep it on the work group, and you can include myself on any communication. And if I do need to get it to anybody else, we probably won't do that. It'll be within a meeting. Even me then sharing it with a fourth member would be considered a quorum for that email string. So just be careful with emails.

KLINE: Okay. So that -- the three people does not include you, right?

PRESTON: Yes. You can include me on that information. Yeah, because I'm not part of your quorum.

KLINE: Okay.

BURNS: Ryan, on that and just looking for a suggestion here or an idea that maybe the work group gets together and maybe brainstorm some ideas on who to contact as far as groups go to ask if they would plan or would like to plan something. Is -- you know, do you think that's an appropriate direction?

PRESTON: Yeah, that would be fantastic. If we can do that that way, we -- from the town side, we have direction on who might be doing something. It would be easier to

reach out and then get the information from them. So that would be -- that would be a lot of help.

BURNS: Okay.

PRESTON: And I know a lot of you are members of those groups, which is helpful as well.

BURNS: Okay. Anything else on that?

PRESTON: And if anybody has any new ideas anybody wants to present anything, now's the time. You can do that as well. So with this agenda item, we've just been trying to think of ideas of things that both the town can do and maybe other groups can do to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America, which is next year. We've discussed a few ideas. I don't know if you have any off the top of your head. I don't think they made it to the staff summary this time.

KLINE: We talked about maybe having speakers at the community center, maybe a parade marshal or some connection with the theme of the parade next year that would tie in. These are ones that involve other groups that we would want to talk to, so --

PRESTON: Excellent. And then I think, like you said, you guys had the idea for the banners, and I know the town liked that idea. So they're running with that. And the idea of kind of being a catchall for all the different activities that are coming. So do you guys think of anything or have any to contribute just let me know. And Chandler not being in that work group, you can send them directly to me as well.

LEPOER: Maybe any of the veterans or military groups in town --

PRESTON: Yeah.

LEPOER: -- might be --

KLINE: Yeah. Definitely VFW, American Legion, and also the DAR.

LEPOER: DAR would be a good one.

KLINE: Yeah.

PRESTON: Perfect. And that's something that I'll be relaying most of this information. I think tourism and economic development will be taking a big role in that with the town, so I'll just be able to push that information to them as well.

TITUS: Toward preparing for that, the hope that I'd be able to be included in a working group, otherwise I would have passed the information on. I have aggregated all of the town organizations and groups and programs in town and their media, the way that they share information. So I can bring that to the working group, and we can kind of work from that to move forward. And I would like to share one idea that I just think is the most fun thing. But of course, everybody will chime in. I wanted to propose a Pony Express mural on the post office wall nearest the main boxes. It's a historic tradition that is unique to our state, but also to Fountain Hills in particular, and with the Economic Development Group having a mural program and we being in charge of history and arts, I just thought it would be a really interesting thing to look at and consider. They celebrate, of course, with the Pony Express. They land there at the post office every year, but there's no commemorative anything. So that was the one thought I had.

PRESTON: No, I like the idea. Just an update that the -- this will be the second year of the Pony Express that the Post Office has decided not to have them --

TITUS: Oh.

PRESTON: -- in their location, most likely. And it's also a federal building. So as far as us being able to do any art on the actual building itself, that wouldn't be a possibility for us. But there's other possibilities to incorporate that in, and so yeah. So great idea. Got it down. But as far as Pony Express, recently, and the post office haven't been on the same page. But yeah.

KLINE: So the Pony Express is not going to be coming into the post office this year?

PRESTON: Yeah, same as last year. So instead of the post office, more than likely, I'm currently working out the details with them right now. Because they are coming at a slightly different time this year. It's looking like they'll be using kind of the parking lot by the sheriff's office there. We'll have that space available for them for their end spot. Same as last year, if you were here. And last year, yes, it was a whole thing with their infighting with the Pony Express. I'm sure -- I'm sure Chair Burns is aware. But so it was a very quick announcement last year. So a lot of you probably weren't out there for it,

but they weren't able to use the post office parking lot last year, and it's probably going to be the same again this year.

KLINE: Still would be great, you know, if they came into town.

PRESTON: Yeah, they're still going to be coming into town and they'll be just outside of town hall using that parking space --

KLINE: Yeah.

PRESTON: -- as parking spaces.

KLINE: Well, maybe there's some other way to -- besides the wall in the post office, maybe -- I'm thinking like one of those utility boxes or something else that would be nearby.

YODER: I'd like to speak to that real quickly. It just came to mind. The Maricopa County Sheriff is from Fountain Hills, and he is a big lover of horses and used to own horses. And I think that that mural idea is really great, and I bet Jerry Sheridan would be interested in hearing ideas about possibly incorporating something that they possess. So just a thought. You guys might want to reach out to Jerry Sheridan and see.

BURNS: And I hadn't thought of that, Tim, but I was just -- you know, just wondering because over the years that they have done this, I found that the Hashknife Posse is not the easiest people to make contact with. So maybe Jerry knows somebody up there that we can work through him, but you know, thanks for that idea. And if anybody else knows how to get a hold of them, you know, that's --

PRESTON: I have their contact information. I've been in contact with them over the past couple of weeks.

YODER: And it is a great kind of Old West connection that we could foster.

KLINE: There's a great statue down in Scottsdale for the Pony Express. It's by the Ivy restaurant [sic] near the canal.

PRESTON: Yeah, I believe that's part of the Parada Del Sol route as well. So I think where they finish --

KLINE: Yeah.

PRESTON: -- every year.

KLINE: So I don't know if there's any way to duplicate that statue.

PRESTON: Yeah, no, it's a great idea, and I think the Pony Express connection and the sheriffs and the horses is a great connection. And I'll definitely have -- and pursue that.

KLINE: Okay.

BURNS: All right. Anything else on that? I think I'd like to communicate with Bonnie and Tiffany here, see if we can get together to put together some kind of list and go from there, maybe have something ready to present in December here, as far as here's what we think, and then we can start first of the year just reaching out, so okay.

Update, historic art and essay contest. It looks like we've got a flier here in front of us, but Tim or Peter, one of you want to discuss where we're at on that?

YODER: Well, I missed the last meeting. I read through the minutes. It looked like Ryan was moving forward with this. I'm pleased to see this flier here. To me, it's eye catching and looks great. And I think, you know, I see this is a rough draft. A QR code is to be added and such, but --

PRESTON: Correct. We don't have a website yet for this, so that's why you'll see there's no link for --

YODER: Right.

PRESTON: -- submission and no QR code yet.

YODER: So that's my comment about the flier. It looks great. I saw you asked about raising funds for the prizes. I think I have some connections that might be interested.

PRESTON: Yeah, I think it's an easy thing to get a sponsor for, especially if we could try to tie it in with the 250th, which I know, again, tourism is trying to do right now is kind of try and see if we can tie this in with, again, the 250th. Nothing in the contest really points to that, and I honestly, I don't really want to change the contest. So we're working on that right now.

YODER: You'll take a -- you know, if somebody wanted to donate \$200 or something.

PRESTON: Right. We can add that. Usually, so we -- so we worked out the prize money to be right around \$900, and for us to find \$1,000 sponsors is not -- I don't think is going to be very difficult for this. I was just -- what I was asking if you guys had any leads, any

groups that you think may be interested in this for any particular reason, you could let me know and I'll do the reaching out. I can reach out to them as well.

KLINE: So are you only looking at monetary prizes, or would there be some other things like maybe memberships or entry to museums or something as an additional --

PRESTON: We can definitely add that. And that's another thing about getting sponsors. If the sponsors want to donate things like that. You know, I don't know. We'd have to have a mark where -- because obviously, the sponsors want some sort of recognition. So we'd have --

KLINE: Right.

PRESTON: -- to figure out different levels for recognition and being on websites and things like that. So I have to come up with a little sponsorship package for it. But that's definitely something we can do. And just to update as well, there will be a third page with this, which is actually the submission form that's not on this. We couldn't fit that on two pages. There will be a paper option, although we will encourage everybody -- we will have an online form that will encourage them submitting. And then later they can turn in their actual project with it. So there will be a website, there will be a digital form with this. We are trying to add a picture of the fountain there. We ran out of time. So the fountain will be there, but in case you guys want to know the photos, that's them putting the nozzle in for the first time. That's the fountain from above. And actually, Chair Burns helped me identify the three men in that photo. My first run through here. I don't know if you remember getting that picture from me. The one on the bottom, asking to help identify who those three people were.

BURNS: Oh, yeah.

PRESTON: Yeah. And that's just an old picture. We had a couple of cowboys riding horses in the park, so it's kind of just another historic photo. All these were also submitted, actually, with our application for the Fountain Park as a historical landmark as well.

KLINE: Wasn't that picture of a fellow that was visiting Fountain Hills on his way across country?

BURNS: It could be. Yeah. There were two riders.

PRESTON: Yeah, there was two riders in that picture and we pulled one out.

BURNS: I don't recall seeing pictures of them individually, but that doesn't mean one of them wasn't cut out for this, but --

PRESTON: Yes, that picture originally had two people. We cut one out.

BURNS: Okay.

PRESTON: And then you'll see the Mayor's Youth Council logo on there as well. So our Mayor's Youth Council is a group of high schoolers here in town. They were planning an art project as their group project, and they may just kind of help us get the word out and things like that on this. So we have thrown their logo out as kind of a partner on this, and I hope that's okay. For those of you who started working on it, I know Peter and Tim, so they are kind of our eyes and ears in the schools, and they're going to help us disseminate this information as well.

BURNS: I was going to ask about that, seeing that logo there. I wondered if they had a specific role, but --

PRESTON: Yeah. So basically, without knowing it, we took almost their entire idea for their year project. I told them we'd started on working on ours earlier, so that's on them. So they want to be a part of it, and so we'll work them in as well.

YODER: That's great. One more final thing. It occurred to me you mentioned something about -- you know, you wondered about the curriculum in the school district, and I thought what I might do when it's time to go back to the District and say hello and present this offer to them, maybe the high school and the middle school, if they would like to have -- you know, I could come in and speak to some about having been a teacher there. Fountain Hills history and kind of if they want, I could be a "rah, rah, Fountain Hills history is really cool" message giver. We'll see about that, but it was an idea.

PRESTON: Yeah. And so I'll be reaching out to the superintendent here shortly. I think our goal was to get it after the winter break. I believe in the hands of the students at some point after that. Was that kind of the timeline we were looking at?

YODER: Yes.

PRESTON: And I did change your -- the submission date a bit, because I think it was the Monday after spring break. So I pushed that to the, I believe, the Thursday after that to give them an extra week after spring break to turn it in. And so that was adjusted. And then from that, we also adjusted the grade levels a little bit to expand on those. So yeah, now's a good time. Any comments on this before we make it go kind of public with the school district? As far as the prizes, the age ranges or any of the information about it? I think we did clarify that the high schoolers can only submit one or the other, not both. I believe that was in the original write-up as well, but it was a little vague, so we made sure to make it clear that it's -- because the high schoolers have an option to do an art piece or an essay. The rest of the groups just have the art piece, I believe, the visual art piece option.

KLIN: So I know we talked once before about where you would present the --

PRESTON: Correct.

KLIN: -- winners, and we talked about the town council meeting or --

PRESTON: It's all over the place right now. So as I mentioned, getting on the town council agenda in May is incredibly difficult for us. I've been told by a couple people that it's probably not going to happen. So there's two other options that we can do. One is we can do it here at a History and Culture meeting. I believe our last meeting is June, so we have a meeting in May. Another option is something similar we've done with the recycled art contest, where we have all the submissions up at the community center, which is the goal. In May, we can hold a small event there as well for the families and everybody, and everybody who submitted art can come. We can either announce the winners there and then we can have a, you know, snacks and things and sodas and waters for the kids. And we can invite the mayor and maybe we can -- you guys can all be there as well, if you'd like. And we could do it there as well.

KLIN: What about doing it at the at Fountain Park with the presidents' statues area?

PRESTON: Logistically, the ability to display the artwork there is quite difficult. It's already going to be on display at the community center --

KLINE: Okay.

PRESTON: -- during that time, so that's why kind of thinking about that one.

KLINE: Yeah. Community center probably would be better.

PRESTON: Yeah. And so that's kind of the thought now, because I've basically been told it's not likely that we're going to get on the council agenda for it just because of the month, how busy that month is.

KLINE: You notice I keep trying to get the presidents involved in this?

PRESTON: I have, yes.

HARPER: With respect to the art and the essays, especially with the art more for any sort of digital media that could be submitted, are we working with anyone as far as, like, the website goes, to incorporate things to weed out any artificial intelligence-generated items?

PRESTON: That is a great question. I think on there, it says don't use it. Whether or not people submit it, yes. So that's a big thing, because I know you had written that into your original plan that no --

HARPER: I wonder -- the school should have a system in place already. I wonder if we could partner with them to utilize the software that they already have on hand.

PRESTON: Yeah, that is a good idea. I mean, right now, as far as digital art, it's pretty obvious right now, still, what is AI, but as far as writing, it could be a lot more difficult to discern. During our poetry contest, I actually used AI to write a poem, and then I wrote my own poem, and I asked an AI checker to tell me which one was AI, and they said my poem that I wrote was AI, and that the other one was not. So hopefully they've improved a little since then, but yeah, that's a great idea.

KLINE: Yeah. You would wonder if that was a compliment for your writing or not.

PRESTON: I think it wasn't. Yeah. No, I think it was the other direction. Yeah.

BURNS: Okay. Anything else on that item? Okay. And where are we? Public art applications. I guess we don't have anything to consider this week -- or this month.

PRESTON: We do not.

BURNS: Okay. And anything looking forward in the future on presentations or --

PRESTON: I think we got one more, item H there. Public art. Oh, no. We didn't. I think you missed the public art -- yeah, we missed G.

GALLAGHER: Public art information.

PRESTON: The work group for public art updates. I know, it's two very similar agenda items.

LEPOER: Not really, not yet. Not until we can start digging in and start looking at what's going to be out there.

PRESTON: Perfect. Okay.

BURNS: Oh, okay.

PRESTON: All right. I think now we're on future.

BURNS: All right. Sorry about that.

WOODWARD: No, it's all right. Kind of order --

BURNS: And it's probably not -- probably not the best way to do this to keep track, but all right. Well, future agenda items and presentations?

PRESTON: Again for our newer members, if there's anybody you can think of or would like to come see a presentation by, that's what the presentations are. You can request them and then we can -- if it's a town staff, we'll look in to see if they can get it -- come out. If it's non-town staff, then that we ask you to be able to reach out to them to get their contact information and have them contact us if they can give a presentation. I know we've had some in the past. We haven't had any real presentations lately. You have me, which I don't count, I don't think. So if you have any ideas or anybody you want to see, you can talk about them here. We can make a list and then move forward with that and then any items you want to see on the agenda moving forward. Pretty much everything you see on the agenda here will be included again, unless there's no business for it. But anything you might want to see, now's a good time to bring it up, and we can add it to next month's agenda.

HARPER: Just as a point of questioning, I guess, what is typically brought up on those items for presentations, or --

PRESTON: It's really anything you want to see, anything you want to hear about. I

mean, we've talked about having somebody from the reservation come and present, kind of from there. We've talked about having members of the museum come and talk about history. We've had, I think, like, Jim Dickey come and talk about that. We've had economic development and tourism talk about kind of what they're doing to promote the art and the history in town.

YODER: The parks. The parks man was here.

PRESTON: Yeah.

YODER: A couple times.

PRESTON: So we've had the parks -- so our community services director talk about the parks and the things in that and what we're doing with those plaques as well. So if there's anything you want to know about or anything you want to learn about or any questions you have, we can find somebody who can come. I have very little answers, so we can find presenters that either can just interest us or they can give us information.

KLINE: I'd be interested in hearing from the museum. I'm not sure if it's under your purview or --

PRESTON: It's not. Anything specific from the museum, or --

KLINE: Just what their -- they have a new museum director within the last year, and so what their plans are or just kind of an update on it.

PRESTON: Sure. And that would be something that we would request that you try to set up the contact with and then have them eventually reach out to me.

KLINE: Okay.

PRESTON: That'd be great.

BURNS: I'm sorry, Bonnie. What did you bring up?

KLINE: The River of Time Museum.

BURNS: Oh, okay.

KLINE: Maybe Peter could help with that.

GALLAGHER: I'd be happy to speak to the director. I meet with her regularly.

KLINE: Okay.

LEPOER: Are you sure, though?

BURNS: My comment would be, do you think -- it's kind of becoming a cultural thing with the town of Fountain Hills, with regard to the Dark Sky Discovery Center.

Interested in bringing them? I know they were here previously, but that was for an art installation. So they've got staff on board now and trying to get things together. If they think that, I've been in contact with them fairly regularly, so I could probably reach out and see if they're interested.

PRESTON: Perfect. Yeah, I know -- I think Michael Weber might be in that position of kind of community outreach as well, so he might be a good one. I'm not sure. But sure. Yeah. If you want to reach out to them. And then basically, once you get confirmation or just let me know, I could take over the communication and make sure to get them on the agenda.

BURNS: Okay.

PRESTON: Yeah.

BURNS: All right.

GALLAGHER: Actually, I'll be meeting with the director of education tomorrow. The new one, Dr. Dania Wright. I could ask her.

BURNS: Okay. Actually, I have something lined up tomorrow afternoon with them, so --

GALLAGHER: Oh. Well, then I'll leave it in your good hands.

YODER: And I'm working with Michael Friday, so I'll put the thumb screws to him.

BURNS: I guess we have plenty of contact there, so okay. And where are we?

YODER: Letter J.

BURNS: Was there anything else on presentations or future agenda items? Okay. I guess we're seeing the next meeting December 3rd? And if that works, everybody enjoy their Thanksgiving. And --

PRESTON: Don't forget to sign up for the Turkey Trot.

BURNS: Yeah.

KLINE: What's the deadline on that?

PRESTON: It'll probably be full by November 21st.

BURNS: And if we can get a motion to adjourn, then I guess we're pretty well set. Looks

like 4:44.

YODER: I'll make the motion to adjourn.

LEPOER: I'll second that.

BURNS: All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

BURNS: Okay. I guess we are adjourned.

Having no further business, Chairperson Burns adjourned the Regular Meeting of the History and Culture Advisory Commission meeting held on November 5, 2025, at 4:44 p.m.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

Bob Burns, Chairperson

ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:

Stormy Mazeikis, Administrative Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held by the History and Culture Advisory Commission of Fountain Hills in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the 5 of November 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 3 Day of December 2025.

Stormy Mazeikis, Administrative Assistant

