

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS
HISTORY AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 1, 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: Commissioner Bob Burns; Commissioner Peter Gallagher; Commissioner Bonnie Kline and Commissioner Toni Lepoer

Members Absent: Chairperson Tim Yoder

Staff Present: Community Services Recreation Manager Ryan Preston and Executive Assistant Paula Woodward.



Post-Production File

**Town of Fountain Hills
History and Culture Advisory Commission
October 1, 2025**

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BURNS: History and Cultural Advisory Commission, come to order.

Paula, you want to roll call?

WOODWARD: Chair Yoder is not here. Commissioner Bob Burns?

BURNS: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Peter Gallagher?

GALLAGHER: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Bonnie Kline?

KLINE: Here.

WOODWARD: Commissioner Tony LePoer?

LEPOER: Present.

BURNS: Okay. Oh, okay.

WOODWARD: That's it.

BURNS: Okay.

KLINE: Small group today.

BURNS: Do you need to read this, Paula, or not?

WOODWARD: No, Chair.

BURNS: There's no call to the public?

WOODWARD: No, Chair.

BURNS: Okay. Okay. Reports by commissioners. Anyone have anything they want to report on from the last month?

Nope. Looks like we're good. I, you know, just kind of waiting for anybody else, but I had an email this morning telling me that there was water behind the old stone dam up in the Botanical Garden, so I went and took a look, and sure enough, there's some water there. Took a couple photos, but, you know, just apparently that's fairly rare.

I did something for the paper, but we'll probably get some -- get a note from people who live up there and say, nah, it's got water in it all the time.

KLINE: Did you hear it?

BURNS: But the person that sent it to me is someone who's worked for the Botanical Garden a long time, so anyway, so that's just an aside.

KLINE: Bob, did you hear any frogs? One year, there was water back there, and there were frogs peeping and croaking.

BURNS: It was mid-morning, so they were probably asleep or whatever they do. And what else? Any presentations, Paula? I don't think so. Nothing on the agenda?

PRESTON: Nope, no presentations today.

BURNS: What's that?

PRESTON: No presentations today.

BURNS: Okay.

WOODWARD: I would just like to say that I enjoyed the ballet under the stars a few nights ago. As usual, that was really wonderful.

BURNS: Okay. And let's see. Okay. That brings us to update on the registry for the fountain. That's right. Ryan, is that you?

PRESTON: Yeah, I can provide that.

So we're on regular agenda 6A, so updates. Yeah, so we've got everything submitted. I have heard back from our State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Collins.

He got everything back to us. It looks great. I had worked with Bob and Tim to get some updates that he asked for for one of the names he didn't recognize. We've also gotten him some other updates as well, so he was really appreciative of that. And I also added the stuff from Michael Gantt as well. So the packet is now complete, although he did mention any time we get more information, just feel free to send it to him. You guys send it to me, he'll add it, because he does want this to be kind of a living document for the history of the fountain park. That being said, I believe it's November 21st, it should be in the staff summary, that there's actually going to be the hearing for us to see if we get passed on to national. And Dr. Collins doesn't see any reason why that wouldn't happen. So I expect to get news of that. There is a Zoom link I can send out for anybody who wants to be part of that hearing. You can also go down to Phoenix and be there in person as well. Just let me know if you plan on going, so if I need a quorum notice or not for the commission. So that's really exciting. That's moving forward. Like I said, November 21st, it took a lot to get on time to get on that meeting agenda, because it

was, you had to tell them pretty far out. So a lot of work by that subgroup. So thanks for everybody who did that. And yeah, I'm excited to get it pushed on to national. And then by national, it's a few months turnaround from that as well. May is still a good estimate when we may know one way or the other. And then hoping to announce it along with other 250th anniversary plans.

BURNS: Thank you for the work you guys did on that, pulling the pieces together and then getting it into a form that they could review and consider.

PRESTON: Yeah, the photos were fun to pull the old photos and everything. So that was a fun part of it, getting all the photos, both old and current of the park. And then I learned a lot, so that was fun. So yeah, that's where we are. And again, I shouldn't have much more to say for the November 5th meeting, but November 21st is the hearing date. And again, I'll send you that information. At 9:30, I believe, I think it's in the packets. Let me take a look. I'm one page ahead. 9:30 in the morning. Yep, and that's off of the National Resources Building in Phoenix. And I do have a web link for that as well. If you wouldn't mind sending that out.

KLINE: I'm not sure if I'd like to go or at least be on the Zoom at the very least.

PRESTON: For sure. Just let me know either way, which one you plan to do so I can do a quorum notice if necessary. Thank you.

BURNS: All right. Anything else on that?

All right. 6B, discussion, possible action regarding the 250th anniversary of the USA. Got quite a bit of stuff in the packet to go over there on that. Bonnie and I just met on a couple of things regarding that. So I don't know if you want to report your thoughts, Bonnie, and then we'll pick it up.

KLINE: So --

PRESTON: Don't forget your mic, please. Thanks.

KLINE: Bob sent out some of his thoughts on what would fit the different categories, and I agreed with most of those. And I wrote up descriptions that would fit some of these. And I don't know what the next best step would be, if I should send them out to everybody or send them to you or just go ahead and submit them.

PRESTON: Well, just so you know, you can't send them to everybody because that would be a quorum outside of the meeting. So those stay within your work group. You can have your work group look at those first. And once they're done, you're welcome to send them to me. And then we can get actionable on them at our next meeting. So anything that we want to look at and review, we'll just need to have at least a week ahead of time so that we can get it out to you guys and then we can discuss it in the meeting as well. But I think, because I think right now, is there a possible action on this one? I forgot to look. Perfect. So yeah, we can kind of go over. I don't know if you guys had a chance to look at these. If you guys are okay with these representing this commission and kind of what you want to push forward, we could do that. If you want to push it to next week at the end, just remember what you guys finalize is maybe your list of what you want to look at. It doesn't even have to be that formal. It's just a recommendation to staff and then staff will make the final call on what we end up pushing forward for this program. So if you guys want to kind of talk out what's here, you're welcome to now.

BURNS: Yeah, I would certainly like to hear some other thoughts. These few things that I came up with and some was pretty much off the top of my head fairly quickly. So yeah, how they fit for people is, we want to give them special recognition for this Passport 250. It's -- I don't know, probably fairly significant, so it would be a help to them and stuff like that. And just kind of a thought and Bonnie and I kicked this around for a moment that the dining, we've just got two things down there. They are a couple of the oldest places in town, but at the same time, there's a lot of other restaurants in town that could easily feel slighted on something like that. So I don't know if we're limited in the number we can do, but again, those are ones who have been around since a couple of decades at least, probably more with Gabe Bueno.

PRESTON: Yeah, and again, that's a decision that the staff will ultimately make and we'll probably work with economic development on that too just to see what to push. And just because we're pushing it out also doesn't mean it's going to be included. Depending on how many the state gets, there will probably be a selection process

within that. So I think it's 250 per each category. I forget the way they're doing it.

Bonnie, you may know you're the one that brought it up, but how the state is pushing this out, but it's not an endless list. There is cutoffs for the amount of things that they're allowing on it.

KLINE: I wasn't certain on whether we could submit like under treasures, if we could do more than one, like the River of Time and the artwork.

PRESTON: So the River of Time on there.

KLINE: We could also do the artwork under the commemorate 250 for a moment of reflection, or we could do the veterans memorial. So if we can only do one, there's some choices that we would need to make. So I could see if I could send an email or make a phone call to find out if we can submit more than one per category.

PRESTON: And again, I don't think you need to worry too much about that. We can take care of that on the staff end. If you want to make your recommendations, again, if you want to get together with your work group, you guys can find a few more. If you want to add to it, Bonnie, just kind of push it out to the work group, then you guys can push it to me. And then we can make a final call as a staff as well.

KLINE: Okay. Would you like me to -- would you like us to come up with the copy and then submit it to you?

PRESTON: Yeah, I think in the original email I sent you guys, there was just that one question that we would need help answering, and I can resend that out. I think there's like two questions. It's the copy that we need help with exactly, the rest of the stuff we can handle internally.

KLINE: Okay.

PRESTON: And you said you did come up with a couple of those already?

KLINE: Yeah, I've written up about five or six of these. And I think Bob said he would be able to do the dark sky city.

PRESTON: Perfect. Yeah, so when you guys have that, you can send them to me. We can, depending on when we need to submit this by, we can either put it on the next month's agenda and we can talk about that later, or we can just go ahead and do a staff

choice on that one as well.

KLINE: Okay.

LEPOER: One quick comment on the first bullet on page six. I think what you're looking for there is the American Legion to do the color guard. If that's something you decide to do.

PRESTON: Got you, okay. And yeah, all those bullet points, just so you guys know too, those are all the past discussion points we've had regarding the 250th as well.

BURNS: Well, the other part of this item is kind of a fairly long list of things that we kind of came up with for how we might step up to recognize the 250th anniversary. And there's quite a few things here that most of it seems to be fairly simple, but trying to get other people on board on some of it might be a bit of a challenge. And I don't know if you've got anything -- if staff has anything in the way of what they would like as a deadline to try and put something together more formally for going ahead on that.

PRESTON: Yeah, it's a great question. Staff direction will come on that, most likely more so, that'll be a future agenda item for the November because November is going to be a pretty, probably solid deadline for trying to figure some of this out. Yeah. I think obviously the town can't do all these things.

BURNS: Right.

PRESTON: I think it's a matter too of maybe the work group focused on figuring out what other things they're doing in town and more actually compiling a list of everything going on so that we can get, and I think that's something Bonnie brought up, so we can have a full list of activities through the town, whether the Legion's putting on something, the Elks are putting on something, whether DAR is putting something on, that we can make a comprehensive list for people to find what they're looking for. And I think that in addition to all these ideas that the town can do as well, I think that'll be our biggest role in this. And then once we, the staff does make decisions based on recommendations, helping then carry those decisions out.

KLINE: So it would be great to have it online, of course, but this is a, you do some really nice little publications like this. Is that something that might be considered for the

250th celebration?

PRESTON: That's a great question. So the timelines on those, they're pretty far out, is the only problem with that kind of printing and set up is like that spring guide for 26 is currently being edited and sent out right now, actually this week. So it all depends on how quickly we can gather everything, what type of material we can put out as far as print. Online's easy. I'm sure we will put something out in print, but I don't know if it'll be up to that same standard, just because of the production time that goes into that document.

BURNS: The spring one goes through when?

WOODWARD: That's a great question.

PRESTON: I actually asked that question today because the economic development puts that one together. And my guess is through mid to end of May is what the spring goes through.

BURNS: Okay.

PRESTON: So it's January through May typically.

BURNS: Okay.

PRESTON: Although the, obviously the list of events in May is short. Most of our events wrap up in April. And on that, does anybody have anything, any other ideas, just big picture ideas for the 250th? I know we got a whole list of bullet points here, but that's another discussion point if you had anything.

BURNS: Okay. Anything else on that?

KLINE: Not at this time.

BURNS: What's that?

KLINE: I don't have anything else at this time.

BURNS: Okay. Historical art essay contest.

Peter, you were working with Tim on that. Do you have anything new?

GALLAGHER: Right. As far as I know, the unified school district is fully in favor of doing this. I don't think there's much for us to do until the fall, except perhaps put together a package that, you know, hand out over at the schools.

PRESTON: Yep. And Tim sent me some stuff to put together. So I didn't receive that from Tim.

BURNS: So we're, we're --

PRESTON: We're actively working on getting that together.

BURNS: Okay. And anything new on public art information?

PRESTON: Turn your mic on for me.

KLINE: I'm sorry. And I was going to check with Ryan because I know that there were, when we last met before the break, Ryan, you guys were working on a bunch of stuff though. And I don't know where we are at this point since I missed last month. I apologize.

PRESTON: No, no worries. So, yeah, what you're referring to is we got the new software called the see, my legacy is the name of the software. And basically what that does, it creates a better, it's just a better organized mobile accessible, accessible, like mapping system, as well as like storytelling system for the art. And so I've been working actually this week quite a bit on updating. I'm getting some stuff in there. We're starting with centennial circle. Most likely after that, we'll move to the Avenue and then we'll do fountain park and probably end with the community center for that. So right now I'm getting everything up. I'm highlighting kind of what I'm going to have questions on because some stuff we have better descriptions than others. And so I'll -- I'll kind of keep your work group updated on where I am on that. I'll send out the link as well for that, that you can check out. It is public right now, although nobody has the link. And so basically we have all these small QR -- little two by two inch QR code plaques that are going to be going on the art pieces and you can scan those and it's going to pull up the story and also link back to be able to look at the whole map of everything. So it'll be really user friendly, really mobile friendly. And so that's, that's actively working on that right now. In fact, I did that a good bit this morning and most of the day yesterday. And then maybe something I ended up asking some help with on some other things with that too.

KLINE: Please let me know. And I just received more information today, so I

will -- I -- we can, if you would like, we could collaborate at some point.

PRESTON: For sure. Yeah. And the more information, the better, the more we can include on the art in every piece, the better. And just, yeah, I think the better story we can tell, the more engaging it's going to be for everybody.

KLINE: Absolutely. And I certainly have a few resources if we need more resources.

PRESTON: Perfect. I will start including you on my questions. Right now, they're mostly been internal, but I will -- I will definitely reach out.

KLINE: That'd be great because I can, I can reach out to like Jenny Lilligrott and of course Dory and they were actively involved.

PRESTON: Perfect.

KLINE: And they both can also absolutely help us. And I -- I did -- I think I left a -- the -- like a booklet of information with you guys. So the very last day of our last meeting.

PRESTON: Got you.

KLINE: They had a bunch of like dates and times and information in it.

PRESTON: Yeah.

KLINE: So --

PRESTON: Perfect.

KLINE: -- location of the item where it was and all that sort of stuff. So yeah. Yep. I'm very happy about this one. This is -- that's going to be fun. And my thoughts coming to fruition.

PRESTON: And do you know if any of your documents have like the longitude and latitude written down for them?

KLINE: I'm not sure I'd have to. Well, I gave you the one copy of the one --

PRESTON: Yeah.

KLINE: -- locations and I'm not sure.

PRESTON: I'll look at that again. Yeah. It's pretty easy to set with Google maps is just being able to find it first. Cause where the map is pinpointing exactly where every single one is so.

GALLAGHER: Perfect for you, Ryan. You said you're getting ready to put the plaques on our pieces soon. Do you have a date when you're going to start?

PRESTON: No date for that. So basically the way it works, we're getting all the -- the software updated first. And once we have centennial circle finished right now, I think there's, there's 33 public art pieces somewhere around the 32 range in centennial circle alone. I think we've got 20 uploaded into the system. Now, once we get all of them uploaded, then our parks department will work on getting those plaques on.

I'll have a better update for you on that, but I'll let you guys know when that starts to happen, whether or not it happens before our next meeting. I can't guarantee, but it's moving forward for sure.

KLINE: Awesome. Thank you. I had a question. There's several pieces of art down at fountain side plaza. Are you including those or I know they're not --

PRESTON: All the bits of public art and that'll kind of go with the fountain park side as well. So they're on all of our documents and all of our websites currently.

KLINE: Okay.

PRESTON: And so they'll, they'll be updated with the new system as well.

KLINE: And the community garden and that kind of thing. Is that included as well?

PRESTON: I have to check. I don't know. I got to look into the community garden, because I know the footprint has changed on that since it's we've done this. We haven't done it when it's had the new footprint since the dark skies pushed it back. So I'll have to, I'll have to look at that. Yeah.

BURNS: Okay. We've got a couple of art pieces there.

PRESTON: Yeah. I just got to see where they are now and which ones they are.

KLINE: And the little boroughs up by bashes. You know?

PRESTON: Yeah. So all of our public art pieces will end up being on there. So like I said, we'll start chronologically it'll be Centennial Circle, Avenue, Fountain Park, and then we'll push out from there to the peripherals.

BURNS: And the -- just -- just curious or checking the information you're putting on each, each piece will indicate particularly if it's on private property, you know, who it

belongs to.

PRESTON: So right now it's, it's the artists. This is public art. So art all belongs to the town and it's on public. They have to be on public property, all the public art pieces. So none of them that we put out will be on private property.

BURNS: Well, Bonnie was asking about the ones over at the plaza fountain, right?

PRESTON: The plaza fountain side. I got a fair, I know like the horse for example, is on an easel. I don't think that's -- they have to be accessible to public. I think that was the -- that's part of the stipulations for public art. And so I -- let me look into that one. They're currently on the list that we put out anyway to go see.

KLINE: Do you know if the one at the chamber got put on?

PRESTON: Which one is that?

KLINE: There's one literally that was hidden apparently by bushes at the, at the Fountain Hills Chamber. They actually cleaned up all the plants there and you could actually, it was like, poof, there it is. And then they got it cleaned up. They didn't even realize it was there until they started cutting back some of the foliage that was around it. And then all of a sudden they were like, yeah, there's a fairly modern piece there.

PRESTON: Got you. Oh, I know. Yep. That one is, I know that piece. I'm aware of that one. Yep.

I'll look into that, Bob. I don't -- that question hadn't come up yet. And so I will -- I'll let you know when it does right now, the main information is the same. That's been in like the tour folders and everything. And it's -- it's basically information about the artist information about the piece right now. And then location.

KLINE: Another one, I think maybe overlooked or forgotten about is down on Shea Boulevard near the MCO building that was put there for, I think an anniversary event. And it's has some medallions and little historic pieces embedded in the sidewalk there. And it's metal.

PRESTON: I took a note. I'll check in on that one.

BURNS: That stuff is missing now, but I don't know if, but the arches are still up there.

PRESTON: Got you. Okay. Yeah, no, I'll check in and make sure that one's on the list.

BURNS: Oh, just, just another question. It's a kind of unrelated to what that is, but I'm just curious as far as is the town, does the town have somebody that they use to do the periodic cleaning of the statues or?

PRESTON: Yes.

BURNS: Because I do know volunteers did it at one time.

PRESTON: No, we use a company now that comes in on a regularly scheduled maintenance for the cleaning of all the public art pieces.

BURNS: All right. Anything else on that?

And let's see, I don't -- didn't see anything in the packet on public art applications. So I'm guessing there is nothing there.

PRESTON: We don't have any applications right now.

BURNS: And future agenda items and presentations. Any thoughts there?

PRESTON: Like I said, on the next agenda, we'll have the chair and vice chair election. So newly we'll take a vote, the way it'll work. I know Tim's not here, but basically he'll start the meeting. He'll get us to the point. And then if there's a new chair, we'll just switch after that's been voted on during that meeting. So that'll be on the next agenda. And I don't know if there's anything else you guys want to see. Perhaps if you want, I can present the way that website works again and show you the progress we've made so far. I can do a quick presentation on the CMA legacy as well.

GALLAGHER: That would be good.

KLINE: I was just wondering if there's anything new from the river of time museum. Do you have any information on that, Peter?

GALLAGHER: I don't. I know we have some meetings coming up one next week and one later in October, and I'll probably have an update maybe for November and opening today.

KLINE: Yeah.

BURNS: For the season. It is.

PRESTON: Again, if it's not a future agenda item, we don't want to discuss too much right now.

BURNS: And just you reached out to me yesterday, Ryan, about information on photos.

PRESTON: Yeah.

BURNS: And yeah, I'd really like to be brought to speed on what's that -- what's with the status of that program is for me, the accessibility and all those are.

PRESTON: Yeah. So we could, we could talk about that. I'll put that back on the agenda for next week because I do have some updates on that and I think some -- some help I'm going to need on, on how we're going to go about getting permission from the private property owners.

BURNS: I was also wondering if at some point you're going to take up a new group of landmarks that you want to add to the list. And you know, maybe that's six month, another year out. I don't know, but you know, once you get those plaques in place that you were asking about. Yeah. And, you know, from my recollection of what's in that -- in that database, you should have no problem finding those photos that you were looking for. But I don't think I said I, like I said, we'll find out where they're at on that.

PRESTON: And we can discuss that a little more on the agenda item next week, or I might reach out to the work group again on that to try to find some of those.

BURNS: All right. I -- yeah, you may need to reform that work group, because I don't know if anybody's still here that was on that particular group.

PRESTON: I think you were added late -- I think to it possibly, if I recall, right. Maybe not. Were you added to that one when you first got on?

BURNS: I don't know whether I was or not. I know John.

PRESTON: It was Bill, Dave and John, I think.

BURNS: And Bill Kneed.

PRESTON: And Dave Pearson.

BURNS: Yeah. Yeah.

PRESTON: Okay. Yeah. We'll -- bring that. I'll put that back on the agenda.

We'll create a new work group for that. Maybe.

BURNS: Yeah. We'll see what kind of work seems like it could be a longer range project.

PRESTON: For sure.

BURNS: If you're just trying to get the first ones wrapped up.

PRESTON: Yep. All right. Any other future agenda items or presentations?

BURNS: Okay. Where's that leave us.

KLINE: I guess I do have one question on the historic sites and the plaques. Are you putting together a map?

PRESTON: We won't be able to discuss it too much right now. Technically we can't really discuss it. It's not on the agenda.

KLINE: Oh, okay.

PRESTON: But I can provide some updates and everything in the next meeting.

KLINE: Okay.

GALLAGHER: You need a motion to adjourn.

BURNS: Okay. The next history and culture advisory commission meeting is November 5th. Nothing else. Motion to adjourn.

GALLAGHER: I move to adjourn.

BURNS: Second.

KLINE: I'll second that.

BURNS: Okay. All in favor

ALL: Aye.

BURNS: Okay. We are adjourned.

Having no further business, Commissioner Bob Burns adjourned the Regular Meeting of the History and Culture Advisory Commission held on October 1, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS



Tim Yoder, Chairperson

ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:



Paula Woodward, Executive 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 1 day of October 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 5 Day of November 2025.



Paula Woodward, Executive Assistant

