

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS HISTORY AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
January 7, 2026

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 Bob Burns; Vice Chairperson Toni LePoer; Commissioner Tim Yoder; Commissioner Peter Gallagher; Commissioner Chandler Harper; Commissioner Bonnie Kline; Commissioner Tiffany Titus

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Community Services Director Kevin Snipes; Administrative Assistant Stormy Mazeikis



Post-Production File

**Town of Fountain Hills**  
**History and Culture Advisory Commission Meeting**  
**January 7, 2026**

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CHAIR BURNS: It's 4:00. So I'm going to call the January 7th meeting of the Fountain Hills History and Cultural Commission together and to order. And can we get a roll call, Stormy?

MAZEIKIS: Yes. Chair Burns.

CHAIR BURNS: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Vice Chair LePoer.

LEPOER: Present.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Yoder.

YODER: Present.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Gallagher.

GALLAGHER: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Kline.

KLINE: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Harper.

HARPER: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Titius.

TITIUS: Here.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. All present and accounted for so move on. We've got no presentations today, so go to the regular agenda, consideration and possible action, approval of the minutes from the September 4th, 2025 meeting. Do I hear a motion on that or any corrections?

VICE CHAIR LEPOER: I motion to accept.

YODER: I'll second that.

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

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR BURNS: Any opposed? And then consideration of approval of the minutes of the December 3rd, 2025 meeting. Do I have a motion on that or any corrections?

GALLAGHER: I move to accept them as written.

HARPER: Second.

CHAIR BURNS: Motion and a second.

YODER: Seconded already.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR BURNS: Opposed? Okay. Now we've got discussion and possible action regarding the historical registry for the fountain. Kevin, do you have anything new on that? I know Ryan was doing some of the legwork and talking to the people, but you have some information in the packet here.

SNIPES: Yeah, that's the only thing that we have right now is, is the information that Ryan had gathered. I haven't heard anything since he's been out.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah. Okay. And no reaction yet from management or council on how to go forward.

SNIPES: Basically, we're looking for -- given the information that's shown, kind of that's seeing where you guys are at on it and what you think about what was brought back to see if this is something that you want to continue working on, or do you think that the information that they're asking for is beyond what makes it a useful tool for the Town. And so that's kind of where we're at right now is, is seeing what the committee's opinion is on where we're at.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah. Well, from my perspective, I think there is room to work with a lot of this. You know, getting some additional information might be a little harder than we first went into it. I don't know -- we had a suggestion from the last meeting to consider a consultant to work with us on.

HARPER: A historic consultant. Do we have -- was it the State Historic Preservation Office that denied the application, or --

CHAIR BURNS: Yes.

HARPER: Do we have their comments on the application somewhere?

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah, they're basically outlined in the packet for this meeting. Looks like page 39.

HARPER: Okay. I will take these. I know this isn't super helpful for today, but I'll take

these and take a look at those and see kind of what they're comments were. And see, based on my experience with shippos (phonetic) throughout the country kind of what.

CHAIR BURNS: And again, my own question, as far as -- I've personally got no problem going forward working on some of this, but I would want direction from staff and council on their thoughts regarding the Orme Dam. That's a complicated issue. And I'm not even sure how we can connect the two.

SNIPES: So that was kind of one of the things that I thought, as well, was that's going beyond the history of the fountain itself into a different class, I think, than what getting historical recognition for the fountain is not based on something that's before the fountain.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah.

SNIPES: So that was one of the things that triggered me as well, is that.

CHAIR BURNS: Basically, everything I read, it indicated it was --had really nothing to do with the decision to put the fountain.

SNIPES: Exactly.

GALLAHER: I have read in some places that, because the Orme Dam was not built, that they had to come up with some idea of how to sell real estate. And putting the fountain in was the selling point. So perhaps there is a connection between Orme Dam and the fountain, in that the failure of the dam caused the idea of the fountain to happen.

YODER: I think that's the -- in my opinion or what from what I know, that's the cart before the horse because the Orme Dam was spelled out in -- at some point in time in the very late '60s or early '70s that it might or would possibly come into existence. But the fountain was already up in 1970, and the dam wasn't canceled officially until 1980.

GALLAGHER: Yes, but one might think a developer as astute as Mr. McCulloch (phonetic) would have foreseen the failure of the dam, since he was developing Fountain Hills originally as lakeside project.

YODER: I don't know --

YODER: Perhaps do we have evidence and proof of that, that he knew and that that was his intention? Or do we just --

YODER: I don't think that's -- I've never seen -- for certain.

GALLAGHER: I have read in some accounts that he initially was going to build a lakeside community, and when that didn't happen, he came up with the idea of the fountain.

CHAIR BURNS: Well, again, that's kind of what we're up against in additional research.

YODER: Right. I don't think -- when I read this first bullet point here, I think I'm like you, Bob. The Orme Dam is a controversy or was a controversy and complicated, but I don't think that the wording here, the context of the fountain's complicated history. I don't think the fountain's history was complicated at all. It was built on private land by a guy that wanted to build a fountain.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah.

KLINE: I believe it was inspired by a newspaper article. So I think that should be the starting point.

CHAIR BURNS: That's correct. And I'd love to find a copy of that, but I haven't been able to thus far. But I'm going to keep looking, or I can keep looking.

GALLAGHER: Perhaps the way that bullet is written is not exactly one hundred percent correct. It might be that the complicated history was that of the Orme Dam.

YODER: Sure. And I concede that that's just a written line that might be out of whack there. But on the other hand, it's possible that they imbued the whole existence of Fountain Hills with some kind of negative energy, so to speak, when it was basically just a business decision.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. All right. Well, I think I'll wait. When Ryan gets back, we can talk to him some more and maybe take some direction and go from there, this one point and explore the Disney Imagineer element of the narrative. It connects the idea of planned communities and explore what is good about America. I think digging into, particularly C.V. Wood's background, I'm not sure you would find out what's good about America. So you know, basically what we've done, if we included a lot of those details in that narrative, they might be somewhat surprised. So anything else, can we move on here?

YODER: I think so. I mean, I could spend about an hour breaking this stuff down, and so that's going to bring us nowhere.

GALLAGHER: I would like to review this further because these bullets are, from an editor's perspective, they're very poorly written. It's actually hard for me to understand the intent of some of these bullets because of the way they're written, in particular the one about Disney. The second sentence doesn't make any sense whatsoever.

YODER: Yes. And the whole Disney project, the history of Disney is fraught with troubles, even in the recent decade or two. There's all kinds of problems about holding Disney up, the Disney Imagineer as, I don't know, as a hero. I mean, you could do it, but they've also proven themselves to be not heroes.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah.

GALLAGHER: I just find it difficult to understand what it is that they're looking for based on this set of bullets.

KLINE: So I'd have to go back and to notes to find out exactly what it was. But there was something that the government did with the tax situation that made developers look at Fountain Hills and also a community up in Colorado, and that made it look like a tax. You know, the tax would make it a money-making venture for them.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah. Actually, there was a fairly difficult discussion between the developer and state legislators and the City of Scottsdale to get the development going. Although I'm not exactly sure what that has to do with the fountain. You know, we're not trying to make the whole town a historic landmark.

HARPER: Could a copy the application be circulated after this meeting as well? I don't think I have a copy of the application that was submitted. I think that would be really helpful for me to be able to look at that alongside these comments, just if anybody has that.

YODER: That's a good question. Like is it past the committee phase now? When we were working on it, it was, oh there's a committee. It's three people there. But now it's not in the committee. I wonder if that's officially -- like, we could do that and share it.

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah, the way I see it, Tim, it's still pending.

YODER: Okay.

CHAIR BURNS: So. You and I, well, Susan was the third, so it was just you and that kind

of took it. So if we want to pick up a third, there's no problem with that.

TITUS: I would nominate and recommend Chandler to be the third then on the committee, with his history and experience. Pete, if you don't mind just providing information and resources and support.

GALLAGHER: I think that's a great idea.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay.

YODER: Well, if that can be done, I'd second that motion.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. We need a vote on that. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR BURNS: Anybody opposed? Okay. So we'll add that and we'll see about how we want to pick this up again.

YODER: So let's talk about it again next meeting in February.

CHAIR BURNS: Sure. Yeah. I think it'll still be on the agenda.

YODER: All right. Good.

CHAIR BURNS: And I'll try and get with Ryan between then, now and then and see what his direction or thoughts might be.

Next item discussion and possible action 250th anniversary of the USA. Kevin, can you give us an update on what the council action was in December that moved this along?

SNIPES: Sure. We now have secured funding. Some of the funding is spoken for. Some of it is not. Up on the big screen you can see -- or the screens behind us. These are the banners that will be being installed. I believe it's next week or the following week. So we are moving forward with that.

They have been ordered and are supposed to come in, end of this week or early next week. So we're excited to get that ball rolling. And so I just wanted to bring them down to show you. No one's seen them, but we'll let you guys see them so you can at least get an idea of what we're looking at, and the angle that we used for the logos kind of blending ours with the US. And so I think they did a good job with them, and it'll look good going down the avenue as well.

We have 100,000 that's been approved. We're going to be securing a – I'll call him a middle-of-the road artist for our 4th of July. And we have that finalized, but we haven't pushed out who it's going to be yet, so I'll keep that a secret for Ryan to share later. So that took part of it, and this took part of it.

And then we're looking at all sorts of other options. And so it is a rapidly moving trying to get some ideas together for what we purchase, how we do it, you know, from tchotchkes (phonetic) to events that we're running, and how we can incorporate different things. And so, as there is ideas that come forth, make sure that you share them with us. I know there's a committee working on it. So anytime we get information, if we want to share it, the quicker the better always because it is a moving target. And when we see opportunities, we try and jump on it before the money disappears to where we can get what we feel is the best things that we can afford to get with the money for it.

But it is going to be a big year next year with trying to tie in and see this tie-in through our events that we'll be doing all year long. So I think it'll be a fun year of doing things like this. One that we got kind of cheated out of for the 50th of the fountain with COVID stealing our thunder. So it was a lot of planning and zero action, and that was not fun. So we'll see what we can do with this.

KLINE: So talking about that, one of the things that you had for the 50th anniversary was that giant 50 down by the fountain. And I know I took photos down there, and if we could do something like that, where you can get the fountain in the picture and the 250th and Fountain Hills name, and it would be good publicity for the Town and for the event.

SNIPES: Yeah, I know that that's one of the things that has been being discussed is figuring out a way to redo that. But stealing this logo's impression on it so that I know that that's something that's being talked about right now.

CHAIR BURNS: I see here that in this Council staff report, there's discussion of branding stuff regarding to T-shirts and commemorative items, branded materials to distributed events, and expanded event programming like kind of a historical movie night or

something like that. Those are all on the table, but nothing really firm.

SNIPES: We've started discussions with State 48, who's done our town shirts and working on a new design for the 4th. And so that's where the shirts come from. So that's a good one that I'd forgotten about, but yeah, that one they are working on actively. And I know that like doing a movie in the park with a themed movie, but the movies hasn't been selected. We're just compiling a list. And then once we get that list compiled, then we'll beat each other up until we figure out which one seems the best and go from there and trying to make sure that we're family friendly.

As we look backwards, we realize that PG didn't mean the same thing as it does today. And so you got to really watch the movie and go, yeah, we really can't show that movie and say it's kid friendly. So those are kind of the obstacles that we're looking at as we look at the list as well.

CHAIR BURNS: So something like The Patriots probably not really on the list.

KLINE: I asked Betsy LaVoy about the Thanksgiving parade. And she said that they announced the theme is going to be Happy 250th birthday for the Town. So if we could get somebody, a marshal for the parade. And I would really like to see us get local media attention and maybe national, looking at the Macy's parade.

CHAIR BURNS: That that's kind of up to the chamber.

SNIPES: Yeah, that's a chamber event. So we would not have any input or any way to help out with their event, as they're the ones that are one hundred percent in charge of everything that happens at it.

KLINE: Okay. Including publicity on that?

SNIPES: Yeah, one hundred percent.

CHAIR BURNS: Tiffany, did you have anything to add on this?

TITIUS: I did, Chairman Burns and Town representatives. Regarding the 250 America 250 initiative, I wanted to thank you for creating the working group, recognizing that the America 250, the 250th birthday is important. I love that you did that, and for including us, and for listening to our advice and ideas to allow that working group -- us as a working group to come together and present ideas, and then to see that you're actually

putting money behind the initiative is really exciting to see. So I want to thank you for that.

And then number two, I love the fact that you're asking and saying, hey, we need to connect with other partners, community, regional events to see who's doing what, who's doing what activities, and to coordinate that and to feed you information as we go.

My concept was to extend not the working group necessarily, but create a new initiative by our commission that is a sort of a round table, or I'm going to pass it off to Chandler, like almost like an alliance, as you called it, but an ability for us as, as commission commissioners to reach out to partners, potential partners and community, other regional community leaders to say, hey, what are you guys doing to coordinate dates, times, events, artists potential just to coordinate better.

And I'd love to offer us as a commission to be that party that helps do that in a nonpolitical, nongovernment, noncommittal way, if that makes sense. But Chandler, I'm going to pass it off to him. Beyond the working group of the America 250 initiative, his idea broadens that whole concept a bit. Thank you.

HARPER: Yeah, and I plan to discuss this maybe in the future agenda items potentially, but just to maybe jump around a little bit and kind of go off of that. Yeah. I did want to discuss today -- either today or next meeting potentially how we could go about partnering with other towns, historic commissions, or local historical societies or even shippo and sort of building a relationship with those other --

CHAIR BURNS: Yeah, I agree with that discussion, but I believe that would be a separate agenda item, so we'd probably be looking at that for a future agenda.

HARPER: That works for me.

YODER: Let's add that to next meeting.

KLINE: So I have one other -- I think Tiffany had this idea about the 250 trees, and there's that new little park down at the end of El Lago that looks a little sparse, and I don't know what the landscaping plans are for that, but that seems like an opportunity there.

CHAIR BURNS: What park is that?

KLINE: The one as you go down El Lago.

SNIPES: Panorama, the new Pocket Park --

KLINE: Panorama or Palisades.

CHAIR BURNS: I think Kevin's done with that.

SNIPES: Yeah. So the way that that's planted is so that all those plants can grow to full size. They're small right now, but they won't be when they grow up. And so it's one of the biggest problems we have in the industry of landscaping and architecture is everybody likes to see it look full when it's new, and then all the plants grow together and no one can tell the difference between one plant and another, and they end up shearing them every other day to make sure that no blooms ever happen on any plants. We're against that.

And so we plant them at a distance that makes it so that when they're full grown, they can be six foot wide and eight foot tall, or they can be three foot wide and two foot tall, depending on the type of plant. So we try and use the type of plant to determine our spacing in the plants that are there. And by starting with plants being smaller, they do way better than if you start with plants that are larger because they're more adaptable. No different than a kid rebounds way quicker than what I would if I got hurt. And so by making sure that we're -- in over a year or two, those plants will outgrow plants that are much larger when they're planted. So yeah, as far as that space goes, 250 trees in that area would end up being a jungle, not a pocket park.

KLINE: Thank you.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. Are we set on 250? Okay. Historic art and essay contest.

Anything new there? That will be getting pretty close to initiating that and getting the kids in action.

SNIPES: Yeah, I don't have anything new on that. I just know it's out.

CHAIR BURNS: And Tim or Peter, you got anything?

GALLAGHER: No. What I remember from our last meeting was that there was some document that Ryan was finishing up for that.

YODER: That's right. I recall that, and he was going to have a conversation with the superintendent, if I remember correctly.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

YODER: And get back to us after the break. That'll be February, I guess.

SNIPES: And I know that those are all out. And so we're just waiting on those to come back. And as they come back in then, then we'll start sharing them with the group to go over. But I know that he did mention the school and got everything passed out. And they've been sharing it around to get people involved with it.

GALLAGHER: Yeah, I'm just reading the words in the agenda here. It says we plan to start pushing the project in late January.

SNIPES: Yep. We're there.

GALLAGHER: Excellent.

SNIPES: So thank you.

CHAIR BURNS: So basically it's on schedule. All right. Discussion and possible action on public art information updates. Kevin or Tony, you got anything you can add on that?

LEPOER: I don't have anything new. I know that Ryan -- I don't have anything new. I know Ryan's been diligently working on it. He was going to send me the link to try and go back, if he could, to see what's going on, but I haven't gotten that link yet so. Do you know of anything new?

SNIPES: Well, we have a few different things coming. So one is the International Dark Sky Discovery Center artwork that you guys approved. Didn't turn out to be as valuable as what they thought it was, and it was the stipulation that we had when it was voted on and approved is that as long as it meets the guidelines. Well, it didn't. So they are going back out to procure another piece of art to meet their match that they need to do. Once that happens, they will be bringing it back to you for approval before it goes to Town Council. And I haven't heard anything lately. I haven't seen anything as to if they found anything. So I don't have more information than the fact that they just needed to have more artwork to meet their numbers that they have to match. But outside of that I don't have a whole lot.

I know Ryan was definitely working on the SeeMyLegacy stuff to add in the art walk to it's something that we're incorporating through our parks and our trail systems, using those QR codes with the company, SeeMyLegacy. We've just started touching the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. We have one hundred QR codes to put out. We put several in the botanical garden when we had their anniversary earlier this year or last year. Let's go backwards. And they worked really well for that as well. So I know he had been working on the Centennial Circle area, and he's working his way out from there. So I think we'll be able to do a lot of really cool things with this thought process of adding things.

Kind of art related is also we're doing the informational signs, just kind of a heads up around the fountain. And those will have QR codes that guide you to the art as well. On certain ones, each one's a little different, I know there was a lot of activity that was supported here with this group on getting those going. We're in our final phases of review right now.

We have a designer that started helping us out with those maybe a month or month and a half ago. It's a project that we've been working on for, I don't know, I think it's been three or four years now. It feels like forever. And I was kind of spearheading the push of it. And then through staffing issues, multiple, and then starting over again, that one kind of fell to the wayside a little bit. So I'm excited that we're finally at a spot where we're getting ready to get those printed out.

We're hoping to have those out into January, early February. Once we get the final renditions, we can send it out to this committee so you guys can see it. I know that you guys were actively involved. And so I want to make sure that you guys get a chance to see it, too, before everybody else does. So we'll share that with you.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. No public art applications on for this meeting, I guess. And let's see. Next meeting date for February is Wednesday the 4th. Future agenda items, I've got a couple here I'd like to see.

I discussed this with you earlier, Kevin, about maybe presentation from Amanda regarding the Council discussion regarding the mural program or project, the

public/private admiration (phonetic). So I'd like to hear from her on just exactly what they're planning and what, if anything, is the role for this group going forward on that? just to give you an idea, it's got to do with working with various building owners in town to consider mural projects on their property, on their walls and stuff.

And I don't know if there was any other presentations we had scheduled for February or not. I seem to recall some discussions, but I don't know. And Chandler's idea on information on interacting with other groups so we can get some clarity and ideas with regard to that. And I was trying to think whether I had something else. Yeah. It escapes me if I did. Anybody else have anything they'd like to put up, propose?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Other than the obvious review of the contest and such, no, nothing new.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. Yeah. The regular items that are on here are fine. Okay. That being it, I'll entertain a motion for adjournment here at about 4:35.

HARPER: Second.

CHAIR BURNS: Did we have a motion and a second?

MR. HARPER: I thought you were the motion. I'll motion for adjournment.

LEPOER: I'll second that.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay.

CHAIR BURNS: All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR BURNS: Okay. We are adjourned for now. Thank you all.

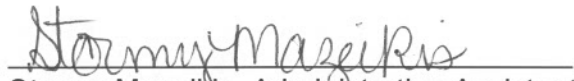
Having no further business, Chairperson Burns adjourned the Regular Meeting of the History and Culture Advisory Commission meeting held on January 7, 2026, at 4:35 p.m.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 4<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2026.

  
Stormy Mazeikis, Administrative Assistant