

# Arizona Commission on the Arts Special Commission Meeting

## Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:30pm

A special meeting of the Arizona Commission on the Arts was held virtually via Zoom.

Chairman Mark Feldman presided.

### Board Members Present:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Feldman, Chair         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Kush     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danny Sharaby     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pamela Hall, Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Lett * | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Soberanes               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Corieri *         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tamalyn Lewis  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colleen Steinberg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angelia Hill                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Potter |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Frazier Johnson      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Schmitz  |   |

\* Present for portion of meeting, but not present at time of vote.

### Arts Commission Staff Present:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne L'Ecuyer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Claudio Dicochea     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanna Spence-Schehr     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Nelson, Deputy Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Anastasia Freyermuth | <input type="checkbox"/> Elisa Radcliffe         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bethanne Abramovich          | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim McCreary-Bourin  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Wilcox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kesha Bruce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Needham         | <input type="checkbox"/> Stacey Wong             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brad DeBiase                 |   |  |

### Guests:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirstin Story, Attorney General's Office | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marjorie Becklund, Attorney General's Office |
|--|--|

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

Feldman announced a call has been made for an Executive Session and asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Dr. Pamela Hall made a motion to enter Executive Session. Jason Kush seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## Entry into Executive Session

At 3:09 pm, the board entered Executive Session. Kirstin Story and Marjorie Beckland were invited to attend.

Minutes for the Executive Session were taken by Dr. Pamela Hall.

In accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(B):

Minutes of and discussions made at executive sessions shall be kept confidential except from:

- Members of the public body that met in executive session.

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- Officers, appointees or employees who were the subject of discussion or consideration pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
- The auditor general on a request made in connection with an audit authorized as provided by law.
- A county attorney or the attorney general when investigating alleged violations of this article.

## Resumption of Public Meeting

The board returned from Executive Session and resumed the public meeting at 3:59 pm.

Mark Feldman announced that per Anne L'Ecuyer's request, non-privileged discussion of her employment, assignment, demotion, dismissal, and/or discipline will occur in open meeting.

Mark stressed urgency to approve budget and get grants out to organizations, assured members of the public in attendance that grants would go out.

## Discussion

The board discussed complaints made against Anne L'Ecuyer by various constituents and personal observations of patterns of behavior that have alienated certain parties.

Prepared statements were presented and constituent emails were read by Kush, Potter, and Hall which articulated concerns from long-time arts leaders about their difficult interactions with L'Ecuyer and her condescending and inattentive approach to requests for information.

Additional comments were offered by Potter, Rachel Frazier-Johnson, and Tamilyn Lewis.

Feldman offered an opportunity for board members to make a motion. No motion was made.

Feldman allowed L'Ecuyer five minutes to address the board.

L'Ecuyer questions the forum and format chosen for the meeting, requests that those who complained to the board be identified, and suggests board did not seek comment from anyone who did not make a complaint.

At the expiration of L'Ecuyer's five minutes, Feldman invited motions for action.

Potter moved to terminate the Commission's contract with Anne L'Ecuyer, effective immediately. Hall seconded the motion.

Kush asked whether Feldman can participate in vote. The answer was given that the Chair only votes in the event of a tie.

The board voted on the motion: nine vote to terminate, with no abstentions and none against; motion carries.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.