

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: May 5, 2020

TITLE: Disbandment of the Community and Cultural Affairs Commission

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RECOMMENDATION

Introduce for First Reading and read by title only: "An Ordinance of the City Council amending Chapter 2.44 of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code, disbanding the City's Community and Cultural Affairs Commission and granting certain authority to the City Manager or his/her designee."

BACKGROUND

On February 4, 2020, the City Council directed Staff to bring back an ordinance to disband the Community and Cultural Affairs Commission (CCAC).

DISCUSSION

On June 4, 2002, the City Council adopted an Ordinance to create the Desert Hot Springs CCAC to facilitate public programs, services and facilities to enhance the quality of life of its residents and its visitors, promote the city's aesthetic environment, increase property values and vitalize economic activities within the City.

The CCAC consists of five (5) members, appointed by one member of the City Council, and ratified by a majority vote of the City Council. Members are appointed for two-year terms. Appointments are made at the second regular City Council meeting in January in even-numbered years. Vacancies are filled by appointment for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

The primary purpose of the CCAC is to function in an advisory role to the City Council with the following duties;

- Recommend a planned approach for the delivery of leisure, recreation and community services
- Recommend and implement such programs and activities which foster mutual understanding and respect amongst the City's racial, religious, ethnic and nationality groups
- Assess the public art needs of the City and recommend the development, maintenance and preservation of public art
- Analyze community programs effectiveness and needs

Over the past several years the City has encountered the following concerning situations with the CCAC;

- Lack of commitment of Commissioners, with many failing to complete their terms.
- Cancellation of Community Events due to poor planning, in-fighting and lack of leadership.
- High vendor costs due to inconsistent procurement practices

In an effort to streamline the duties of the commission and be more inclusive of the community as a whole, staff is recommending the disbandment of the CCAC as a formal commission in favor of delegating the roles and responsibilities to the City Manager or his/her designee, who will create small ad-hoc committees comprised of community members with specific skills sets and interests who can assist on a project by project basis. This will also allow the opportunity to standardize procurement of services for the various events and programs put on for the community.

The Art in Public Places process will continue in its current form, however, rather than going before the CCAC for the initial review of the proposed art, the initial review would be conducted via an Administrative Review process before proceeding to the City Council for final review and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The CCAC Budget of \$20,000.00 will continue to be utilized by the City Manager or his/her designee to facilitate events, programs and public art within the City of Desert Hot Springs.

EXHIBIT(S)

1) Ordinance Disbanding CCAC