

**MINUTES OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE TASK FORCE, IN SPECIAL MEETING OF  
MONDAY, FEB 22, 2022 AT 5:00 PM, VIRTUAL MEETING MICROSOFT TEAMS,  
GILBERT, ARIZONA**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Evgeniya Barabasz-Lynn, Cherie Scott, and Jean Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sandra Reynolds\*

**STAFF PRESENT:** Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Project Supervisor Ryan Blair and Deputy Town Clerk Judy Martinez

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Rutkowski, Marissa Pellegrini, and Charlie Golek of Kimley-Horn, Suzanne Deitering with Point Engineering, Aaron Allan with J2 Engineering, and Eric Weston with Sundt Construction

**AGENDA ITEM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m.

\*Member Sandra Reynolds could not connect to the virtual meeting due to technical difficulties.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND – OCTOLLIO ROAD – GREENFIELD TO HIGLEY**

1. Review the top four Ocotillo Road Bridge Alternatives and discuss community feedback to refine from the four concepts down to two concepts.

David Rutkowski of Kimley-Horn introduced the team in the meeting and provided a presentation on the bridge aesthetics and concepts for the Ocotillo Road Improvements, Greenfield to Higley, Project No. ST0540, adding the goal was to narrow down the concepts from four to two. He stated the Arts Committee Task Force was one of the focus groups and they would be meeting with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) and their steering committee next. He provided a high-level overview, explaining there would also be some right turn-bay improvements with the main section of Higley Road that crossed the canal and shared a map to highlight the area. He discussed the possibility of funding for the north end of the park and park access. He noted the concepts were provided to the public using virtual tools, but it was still very early on in the process. He advised

the Task Force members that there could be a lot of mixing and matching of the features. He spoke of the virtual outreach tools, noting the public comment period was held through February 25, 2022, via Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Gilbert Digital, and a public coordinates system through Kimley-Horn. He noted the interactive mapping tool would be reset later for more comments and said the aesthetics theme was “Desert Oasis” in terms of project theme, inspiration, and application.

Mr. Rutkowski stated the first concept was *Palo Verde* using the inspiration of Palo Verde trees in the area. He noted even with the different visualizations shown that the size and scope of the bridge was the same through all concepts. He noted the features of a colorful skate park and ball fields were the same in all concepts. He said the white columns in the *Palo Verde* concept were meant to be translucent panels that could light up, then he discussed other possible features. He showed different renderings of the concept from different views including aerial, pedestrian, and overlook views. He noted the space under the bridge was left blank, adding it was part of the park, so they consciously did not add much, though they were working with the Parks and Recreation Department on that part of the project. He noted the ring lighting around the pillars could include color-changeable lights that could be for events, but noted that the lighting should not be a hindrance to neighbors or could potentially go off at a certain time.

Mr. Rutkowski showed renderings of the next concept called *Cascade* with textures inspired from water and erosion. He stated its features overlooked the park and discussed shade structures. He said the third concept was *Water and Stone*, which featured colorful lighting and a rust pattern that was built into the concrete. He noted the wave pattern and the “disco ball” shaped lights under the bridge. He noted there were ways to create more shade and showed how the lights and “disco balls” looked at night. He highlighted the fourth concept called *Waterfall* with a waterfall inspiration. He said the main pillars may have a different pattern or multi-color mosaics that would give the feel of water and appear to be moving in the wind. He noted the wave-like pattern and how it would intertwine with the cables, adding the concepts were still being worked on with consideration to how they should trickle down to the smaller bridges. He then showed the four concepts side by side and opened it up to the Task Force members for discussion.

Member Smith said she would like to see something that was noticeable from planes above, signaling entry to Gilbert; therefore, the *Palo Verde* and *Water and Stone* were her top choices, as they provided the greatest amount of light. She said she was not sure which she liked more, but *Cascade* was the one she liked least.

Member Scott concurred that she also liked *Palo Verde* and *Water and Stone* best. She said the important features to her was a piece of art, or larger than life art, and the bump-outs to allow for stopping or photos without disrupting the flow of traffic. She said her preference was to have accessibility on both sides. She said she was curious about the durability of the disco balls and if they would be easily damaged; to which Mr. Rutkowski said he believed they would be hard to damage and the intent was to make sure the features stood the test of time.

Member Scott asked if one of the features was more or less than other to maintain. Mr. Rutkowski stated they would consider which ones were more appealing from budgetary concepts as they tried to vet down the concepts. Member Scott said she liked the textured concrete feature and having it be experiential underneath and from all areas as well, again noting the importance of the pedestrian areas, bike spaces, and bump-outs on both sides.

Member Barabasz-Lynn discussed options for adding light to both sides, stating she liked *Palo Verde* and *Water and Stone* as well, as they were more grandiose in features. She said with some of the smaller structures, you would miss them and those had more noticeable concepts. She said it would be nice to have pedestrian access from the park. She discussed the *Water and Stone* concept, saying it was more two or three-dimensional, adding potential to create more shade and interesting gates through bike paths, which would also give opportunity for signage.

Mr. Rutkowski asked if the pedestrian and bump-outs were only on one side, would the preference be to have it overlook the park or the mountains. Member Barabasz-Lynn recommended having it look at the amphitheater and into park, noting you could see the mountains from anywhere; the Task Force members agreed.

Member Barabasz-Lynn requested opportunities for public art and said horizontal railings were good for climbing, which could be dangerous, and vertical was better for the railings and such.

Member Barabasz-Lynn asked if it was the Task Force's last opportunity to provide input. Mr. Rutkowski stated the goal was to come back to focus groups once narrowed down to two concepts. He said they had hoped to come before the Task Force earlier, before social media had released the renderings, but timing did not work out. He discussed the work with the other focus groups, with the hopes of coming back to the Task Force in April.

Member Smith and Member Barabasz-Lynn stated Kimley-Horn provided great presentations and designs and thanked them for their work.

Member Barabasz-Lynn asked about landscaping. Mr. Rutkowski stated that would come into play later with the Parks and Recreation Department, noting that excavating was needed as well and the project right then was mostly focused on the bridge.

Marissa Pellegrini of Kimley-Horn thanked the Task Force members for their comments, stating she heard clearly what the group liked but asked if there was anything that could be left behind. Member Barabasz-Lynn stated she did not like the large dragonfly concept, adding it could be structurally difficult and she worried about weather. She noted a large piece of art could possibly be incorporated under the bridge.

Member Smith stated she liked all of the suggestions that had been made.

Member Scott stated she would be hard-pressed for something to leave behind, noting Kimley-Horn did such a nice job and she thought the flexibility with lighting was lovely and could be toned up and down with considerations for neighbors. She said she agreed about the dragonflies being precarious but did like the idea of having opportunities for sculptural art in some form from local artists .

Mr. Rutkowski stated the group could send more comments to Deputy Town Clerk Judy Martinez.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

-----  
Sandra Reynolds, Member

-----  
Judy Martinez, Deputy Town Clerk