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**CALL TO ORDER**

[Time: 00:00:01]

Mayor Ortega: I call the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, City Council Regular Meeting to order. City Clerk Ben Lane, please conduct the roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

[Time: 00:00:14]

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Kathy Littlefield.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Present.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Barry Graham.

Councilmember Graham: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

City Manager Jim Thompson: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Acting City Attorney Joe Padilla.

Acting City Attorney Joe Padilla: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

City Clerk Sonia Andrews: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff.

Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Very good. We have Scottsdale Police Sergeant Sean Ryan and Detective Dustin Patrick as well as Firefighter Ellie Dedmond if anyone needs assistance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

[Time: 00:00:55]

Mayor Ortega: Let's stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Barry Graham.

Councilmember Graham: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

[Time: 00:01:25]

Mayor Ortega: I want to call our attention to the war in Ukraine and remember their sacrifice and fight for freedom and democracy is ongoing. I ask you to join me to pause in silence for the people of Ukraine. Thank you.

Well, join us this Saturday on the civic center lawn. It has been newly renovated and it's a fantastic space. We are celebrating Bunnanza from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be an egg hunt, that begins at 9 a.m., with more than 850 dozen -- dozen eggs. Figure that out, how many -- close to 10,000 eggs. There will be also interactive booths, food vendors, photos with your Bunnanza Rabbit and Sheriff Jack and live music. The event is free and promises a fun morning for all ages.

I call on City Manager Jim Thompson to provide the City Manager's Report.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

[Time: 00:03:07]

City Manager Jim Thompson: Thank you, Mayor. This evening we have a short video for you.

Public Affairs Specialist Stephanie Hirata: Hi, I'm Public Affairs Specialist, Stephanie Hirata, with five fast things happening around the city you need to know.

Starting us off at number five, get ready to ride. April is bike month. Did you know Scottsdale is a gold level bicycle-friendly community? The city received this prestigious designation from the League of American Bicyclists and is one of only 35 gold level cities in the United States. So it's no surprise we have some fun ways to celebrate. Register for the annual cycle the arts event, and take either a four or 13-mile bike tour of the city's public art collection on Sunday, April 16th. We are also bringing back the popular bike-to-work-or-whenever event after a three-year hiatus. Cyclists are invited to stop along their ride for breakfast snacks at designated stops throughout the city. For more information and to register, go to [Scottsdaleaz.gov](http://Scottsdaleaz.gov) and search bike month.

Coming in at number four, we're grateful for volunteers all year round, but for one week in April, let's show them some extra love. Mayor David D. Ortega will declare that Volunteer Appreciation Week in Scottsdale is from April 16th through the 22nd. From 2021 to 2022, Scottsdale had 3,243 volunteers record nearly 88,400 hours of volunteer time. That's valued at \$2,474,276 or close to 43 full-time employees. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for making a difference in Scottsdale, and keep up the amazing work!

Next up at number three, be aware of native wildlife. You may have read about recent coyote

attacks in city neighborhoods. Coyotes, along with bobcats, javelina, raccoons, and skunks can be seen in urban areas this time of year. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, there have been about 25 coyote attacks on people in the valley since 2017. In most cases, attacks result from other people leaving food out for the wild animals when they're not supposed to. Coyotes and other wildlife are part of our community, and it's important to take precautions when out and about and be aware of your surroundings. Arizona Game and Fish Department staff recently hosted a living with urban wildlife presentation at Mustang Library. You can watch the video on our YouTube channel, [Scottsdaleaz.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), and searching urban wildlife. Discourage wildlife from living in your area by removing habitat essentials such as water, food, and shelter. Call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 602-942-3000 for more information.

[Time: 00:05:56]

At number two, who's ready to celebrate our planet? From volunteer road cleanups and guided nature walks in our beautiful preserve, to an edible garden presentation, and a Xeriscape Garden tour, Scottsdale has a full lineup of events for everyone looking to recognize our planet. Scottsdale Earth Week begins on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd and runs through Arbor Day, Friday April 28th. For all the details, visit [Scottsdaleaz.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov) and search earth week.

Wrapping things up at number one, speaking of Scottsdale Earth Week, you definitely won't want to miss the Scottsdale Green Expo. It's the first event kicking off our week-long celebration and includes a special rededication ceremony honoring the Son of Godzilla, the Scottsdale invention that advanced modern trash and recycling pickup. Bring your family and friends to bring sustainability-focused education booths and learn more about the city's conservation efforts from 8 to 11 a.m. at the city's North Corporation Yard, located at 9191 East San Salvador Drive. And don't forget to bring your reusable water bottle to fill up at our Scottsdale water trailer.

And that's Scottsdale's fast five for April. Thanks for watching.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, Mr. Thompson and staff. Next is an announcement. During tonight's meeting, council may adjourn into executive session to obtain legal advice on any applicable item on the agenda. If authorized by the council, the executive session will be held immediately and will not be open to the public. The public meeting will resume following the executive session.

Also, per our council rules of procedure, citizens attending city council meetings shall observe the same rules of order, and decorum applicable to members of the council and city staff. Unauthorized remarks or demonstrations from the audience such as applause, stamping of feet, whistles, boos, yells and other demonstrations shall not be permitted. Violation of these rules could result in removal from the meeting by security staff. We also want the meeting to run smoothly and expeditiously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

[Time: 00:08:23]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we will move to public comment. Public comment is reserved for Scottsdale citizens, business owners and/or Scottsdale property owners to comment on non-agendized items that are within the council as jurisdiction. Advocacy for or against a candidate or ballot measure during a council meeting is not allowed pursuant to state law. And is therefore not deemed to be with the council's jurisdiction. No official council action can be taken on the public comment items and speakers are limited to three minutes to address the council.

We received one request from Mr. Dan Ishac and you have three minutes, sir. Please state your place of residence and proceed.

Dan Ishac: Dan Ishac, address on record. Thank you for allowing me to speak once again. Last November, I offered sincere thanks to you to keep our city the desirable place that it is. I did so because it would be hard for anyone not to see the tremendous efforts you must make at times often without thanks and occasionally with public attacks and ridicule.

I'm speaking tonight because not only at the last meeting were you subject to ridicule but disgustingly from the dais itself. Mr. Graham, you stated that the Mayor and the three councilmembers that supported the 68<sup>th</sup> Street project ignored public input and you doubled down using similar language in your blast email. Your language is offensive and inaccurate. Just because a person disagrees with another, doesn't mean they don't listen. I don't know how many people sat through the entire meeting and read the emails. There were people on both sides of the issue, those in support were concerned with, among other things pedestrian and biker safety, high speed, the ability to cross the street, and the discontinuity with the other 80% of 68<sup>th</sup>. Those in opposition, were concerned, among other things with congestion, costs, impact on businesses and potential delay of first responders. And the split of comments was not even close to being one sided. They actually tilted in favor of the project.

Councilmember Durham who is the least political person on that dais, and is quite contemplative, went to great lengths to address the concerns he heard and why he believed the pros outweighed the cons, yet he's being vilified on social media and the Scottsdale edge by you and your advisors. This is disgraceful.

Even worse, at the last LD-4 GOP meeting, you stated and if you want to check the veracity and the accuracy of my comments, I have the recording, I'm a minority on city council. They want people piled on top of each other so dense with narrow roads so that they will bring in light rail. There is a plan or agenda to have smart cities. My colleagues don't have fiscal discipline. The sustainability is anti-car and anti-parking. They love road diets. They want you on a bike or bus while they drive their cars. They want homeless shelters. I want more conservatives on boards

and commissions. Wow! So many dog whistles in such a brief presentation.

Mr. Graham, I told you that you ran an excellent campaign, consistent, on point with all the dog whistles and sound bites to rally your supporters. The campaign is over. You won. It's time to move from campaigning to running the city. That means working with your colleagues and the city staff instead of openly disparaging them. It also means stop with the pandering, grandstanding and divisiveness. We have enough of that at the national and state level. Your job is to represent all of the 240,000 residents and business owners of our great city, not just those who support you, not just those who funded your campaign. Our city deserves better than what I have heard from you over the past three months. It's time to do your job.

Mayor Ortega: Next, we show no other requests for public comment. I will close public comment.

### **MINUTES**

[Time: 00:12:57]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we have consideration for the approval of the minutes. I request a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, executive session minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regular meeting minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, special meeting minutes of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regular meeting and work study session minutes of March 7<sup>th</sup>. Do I have a motion?

Councilwoman Janik: So moved.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Please record your vote. Unanimous. Thank you very much. Next, we will move on.

### **ADDED ITEMS**

[Time: 00:13:45]

Mayor Ortega: As you know by state law, we do post our agenda, and in this case, an item was added on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, that item was 15B and requires a separate vote to remain on the agenda, or be continued to the next scheduled council meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I'm entertaining a motion to add 15b to our agenda today. Thank you. We have a motion and a second. And please record your vote. Unanimous, thank you very much.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

[Time: 00:14:38]

Mayor Ortega: Next we are moving on to the consent agenda items which include items 1

through 15B, as amended. Do any councilmembers have questions on any of the consent agenda items or request to move any of the consent agenda items to the regular agenda?  
I see no hands up.

Next we will move to the possibility on public comment on consent agenda items. We have one request to speak for item 15A. Which is shown on our agenda. Ms. Dianne Barker, would you please come forward and state your place of residence. And she is speaking to item 15A.

[Time: 00:15:39]

Dianne Barker: Good evening, Mayor and City Council, my name is Dianne Barker. And it's nice to come here on an evening of city council meeting. I do come from Phoenix. My address is on 809 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Phoenix. And I'm here on the agenda item 15B. I would like to share with you not only your resolution and contract, but also suggestion into internal affairs.

And I have given a handout that the Clerk gave you. So starting out with the A.R.S. 12-720, I have read your documents. I happen to read this case of Garcia. And I see that this is hush money and it's disallowed by the state of Arizona. It has an allegation in the court records, in D, and certainly you can't be giving money for that. It's -- your resolution talks about confidentiality and going on and not saying anything. You accept this money. You have no liability and you don't accept anything that is true. Everyone takes the money and pays your attorney's bills.

I also asked for public record from the date she was arrested from internal affairs and so forth, for all the total costs of the staff resources for this, which is stated in your resolution, all the people who have spent time up to date. I have seen the case and I have seen Lori Davis. She's had, like 55 of these police -- well, she's had 41, but the police have had 55 cases in federal court and we're not even talking about Superior Court. She's handled Gleeson, now, Garcia. And I could add more. These are women who claim that they have not been treated properly by the police. Your job here is it's not limby knee like the attorneys just like to say, state law, we will exclude that. That's when they go to trial.

So finally, my suggestion to you is, because even in the last year, I have talked to internal affairs, and I was dismissed and they gave improper information to peace officers. You have a law here, false reporting. That needs to come first. Because when you don't accept responsibility, you will get chaos and all this money. You want to pay for it. Already your budget is over. You want to pay for it by raising property taxes. I claim that that too is an illegality.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. At this point, I will close the public comment on consent agenda items 1 through 15B. I'm open to a motion for action on the consent agenda.

Councilwoman Janik: So moved.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: So we have a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 15B. Any discussions? Seeing none, please record your vote. Unanimous. Thank you very much.

**ITEM 16 – SCOTTSDALE’S MUSEUM OF THE WEST FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
AMENDMENT**

[Time: 00:20:00]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we will move on to item number 16. Item number 16 relates to the Scottsdale's Museum of the West financial participation agreement amendment. We have Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager. Good to see you, Brent. Hi.

Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell: Honorable Mayor Ortega and members of the City Council, tonight's item is a request to amend the annual financial participation agreement with Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West. Western spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West opened on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The museum is managed through a museum management agreement between the city and Scottsdale Museum of the West Inc., a Scottsdale-based nonprofit that operates the museum in the city's facility. In July 2021, the city council approved a new museum management agreement to document a new relationship between the city and the museum, including financial support by the city.

The agreement incorporated recommendations from an audit conducted by Scottsdale city auditor. The agreement included the financial participation agreement for FY-21/22 which was approved at the same time and set a management services fee of \$650,000 for the performance of the museum's obligations. \$250,000 was for fixed costs and 400,000 was for a donation matching program, which would only be received if the museum raised an equivalent amount in donations and those donations were restricted to fund normal museum operations.

These funds as well as all prior funds provided to the museum, except for those provided in COVID relief were funded from the tourism development fund, which is taxes collected from people that have stayed here in the past to be used on items that benefit those who come here in the future.

The museum management agreement states that the city shall pay the museum an annual fee for the performance of its obligations under the agreement, but it does not set the amount. In fact, it states that the city council shall determine the fee in accordance with the city's annual budgetary process, and the fee is subject to the annual appropriation by the city council which appropriation shall be at the sole and absolute discretion of the city council.

However, the same sections states that the museum may request annually through the city manager's operating budget process, an adjustment in the management services fee for

increased costs related to the performance of its obligations under the agreement. If approved by the city council, the increase is adjusted into a new fee amount for the next fiscal year and the obligations are outlined in the 30-page management services agreement. I was actually going to highlight each one of those sections as I said that, but I was too busy reading to do that. My apologies.

In September, 2021, city staff were notified that the museum had received a major one-time unrestricted grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. This grant was to protect charitable institutions from economic collapse due to the COVID virus, and to encourage others to do likewise. This was the largest donation in the six-year history of the museum.

As part of the FY-22/23 budget process, the museum requested a management services fee totaling \$650,000, the same as requested and granted in had FY-21/22 and stated this was even though costs have risen due to inflation, the request noted when requesting \$250,000 for fixed costs that quote, these expenses that would be borne by the city, if western spirit became unable to operate the facility, end quote.

So this request made 16 months ago is the request that's finally before you tonight. In January 2022, the tourism development commission reviewed this request as part of the tourism program budget and unanimously recommended approval of the request as presented. The request was then reviewed as part of the city manager's budget review process, but it was not approved for inclusion in the city manager's proposed budget, even though there was sufficient funding within the tourism development fund budget.

The recent unrestricted award from Piper Trust was a significant factor, taken into consideration in not approving that package at that time. The museum was notified that while the \$400,000 matching funds were approved, the \$250,000 was not and the museum at that time requested that this be reconsidered.

[Time: 00:25:09]

In April 2022, after a several month process, the museum's board of trustees voted to adopt an investment policy statement for the Scottsdale Museum of the West incorporated endowment, those funds that had been given by Piper Trust, to govern the use of those funds, as a board authorized endowment to ensure against any further economic stress and to serve as a catalyst for future donations and that was not known to us when the decision was made not to include that in the budget.

In June 2022, the report was approved by the council. And it was noted in the council report and shown on the screen there, that staff is working with museum management on the additional funding request of \$250,000 for management services fee that was not allocated in the city's adopted budget, and may bring that recommendation forward to city council later.

In August 2022, it was suggested the museum staff that they detail their need for additional funding beyond just general expenses. In other words, identify what they would not be able to do if they did not receive the funds. It was stated that educational efforts would be most impacted, and they desired to bring back the museum's public education efforts to pre-pandemic levels and they would not be able to do that without the city's funding.

So in November of 2022, a revised budget request for the FY-2022/23 fiscal year was received along with a narrative on from the Piper Trust funds this item was scheduled for the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council meeting. While the report was being prepared, it was determined that the management services fee had already been set for the year, and the financial participation agreement already approved, that this request best fit under agreements, clause 4.4, which states manager may seek supplemental management services fees from the city, in had the event of unanticipated extraordinary expenses.

This language was included in the resolution, and the contingency transfer was also requested because the funds had not been included in the budget et cetera. So, before the January 24, 2023 meeting, the item was removed for consideration at the request of the city manager's office. Staff reviewed the original documentation from the July 2021 council report approving the new museum management agreement, as well as the original FY-2022/23 request and determined that the item should be resubmitted for city council consideration as originally requested by the museum consistent with the museum management agreement, as a management services fee for fixed costs.

[Time: 00:27:58]

And as you can see on the screen, tonight's -- the language in tonight's agreement is consistent with the model agreement approved back in 2021. We just put it in that amount. That's how we got to today's request. The revised request for educational programming has been withdrawn. In addition, because it is now known that the tourism development fund budget will -- is now known that not all of the tourism development fund budget will be expended by year's end, a contingency transfer is no longer needed to cover the amount.

If approved, this payment will be made this year, in FY-'22/23 and I'm able to respond to any questions you have.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. At this moment, we will go to public comment and then comments from council. We have three requests to speak on item number 16, Scottsdale Museum of the West, financial participation agreement. First is French Thompson. Then we have Bob Pejman. And Sonnie Kirtley.

French Thompson: Good evening, Mayor, councilmen and councilwomen. My name is French Thompson, 7148 East Main Street, Scottsdale. I'm in favor of this resolution, and I request that you do approve this. The Museum of the West happened to be about 350, 400 feet away from

my location. I think it is one of the most important museums that are in the area. It's a star of the city of the Scottsdale. We have a lot of the great things.

But it's what I would call the best kept secret in Scottsdale. And in that process, of calling it the best kept secret, there's an awful lot of people that just don't even know that it exists. People that live in Scottsdale, people that live in Phoenix, people who live out of state, New York, all across the country that come here. What I would like to be able to see is a lot more or maybe some really good targeted marketing for this museum, so that the people that do could.

Here and the people that do -- do come here and the people that do live here, know it's around. If you don't know it's here, you are not going to visit it. I think we need to put an awful lot more energy, the city does, because you are investing a great deal of money into this. The staff is wonderful, the building is wonderful, the location is wonderful. There's more people that know about the music instrument museum that live in Scottsdale that even know about the Museum of the West.

And so I would really like to see this funding go on, but I would certainly like to see an awful lot of effort put into some serious marketing for this museum. It's a star. The collection will be added to and the building will be improved. We've got a Museum of the West -- I mean, the Museum Square, which I have talked about a lot in the past, that would -- that's going to be coming. It's going to be tied to the museum. So we need to let more people know that this wonderful asset is there. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Bob Pejman.

[Time: 00:31:56]

Bob Pejman: The name is Bob Pejman. Address is on the record. And I think that strong marketing is needed for the museum, and I think the strong marketing will actually reduce the museum's reliance or dependence on the bed tax. Of course, the part about the -- the part that's used for the capital improvement.

I watched the 2013 council vote which resulted in a unanimous 7-0 vote to approve this. There are a lot of projections and promises were made. For example -- can I put this here? Can you see it? The projection was made that by year five, the museum would have \$1.26 million in earned revenue.

Also the projection was made that by year five, they would have over 100,000 in attendance and ticket sales and then I listened to Susan Klapp's speech where she was ecstatic about how this museum is going to activate the arts district and activate Old Town and based on all of those assurances and promises and projections, the council approved it. Well, none of those things happened.

You know, the attendance is well below. And the revenue is well below and it's not activating, really, the area. And the question is why? Well, it's not because of the museum itself. The museum itself is a first-class facility. The product is first class, and the management is first class. As French says, and it's Sonnie Kirtley said, you can't sell a secret. So we need marketing. I see these events like the Thunderbird Artists and the Wine Show, they have ads on TV on cable TV.

I don't see that for the museum. I don't see any advertising in art magazines, Western Art. I see some Facebook ads. I'm sure staff will disagree with this, but you made a \$13 million investment in this museum. And if you don't market it properly -- I'm talking to the right demographic, the bachelorette parties don't cut it. It's an older demographic with money that's going to come in and basically spend money. And I have heard this being blamed on COVID. Look at the bed tax. The bed tax used to be \$20 million. Now it's \$35 million. So don't tell me COVID is still the excuse.

The hotels are full. The events are successful. So there is a disconnect here. And again, you have made a \$13 million investment and at least a \$400,000 infusion of bed tax goes into it every year. I think with robust marketing, with targeted marketing, we can basically reduce or eliminate the reliance on bed tax. The museum's numbers should come up to \$1.5 million worth of earned revenue. That's not contributions.

And also I know that now we're talking about a \$750,000 marketing budget for Old Town marketing. And my question is: How much of that money is going to be earmarked to market this museum? Because if you don't care about anything else, the museum is an asset that you have invested money in and deserves proper marketing. Thank you.

[Time: 00:35:18]

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. One more speaker. Sonnie Kirtley.

Sonnie Kirtley: I've had bronchitis. So I sound kind of like Tallulah Bankhead for those who are old enough to remember her. My name is Sonnie Kirtley. I'm on the board of directors of COGS, Coalition of Greater Scottsdale. This is definitely everything that French has described. Our Museum of the West is such a golden nugget. The location is perfect. The building architecturally is outstanding.

You know if you have gone in there, it's the ceiling, it's the walls, it's the outdoor patio. Everything is an inspiration of the west. The collections are history. The collections are telling our story. Where else in our city are we telling our story? But it's a secret. You can't sell a secret. The answer is simple.

We have to start funding advertisement and marketing of our Museum of the West. It will benefit our city, it will benefit the coffers of the museum. It will tell the people who work there, we can support you. I can tell you that COGS will be right there with you for anything we can do,

and I will tell you some of our people are volunteers and docents.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. I will open up discussion from councilmembers. Councilwoman Janik and then Councilman Graham.

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. I agree with French and Bob and Sonny. This is a Scottsdale gem, but it shouldn't be a secret. It's a gem we need to share with our city, our state, our country and hopefully bring in international tourism as well. And what I think it just needs again is more advertising, and I think that the city with tourism and Karen Churchard, I think the Museum of the West staff and I think that Scottsdale arts need to work together to maybe come up with something like a cultural pass, so that you could visit all the hot spots for the art in our city.

And that would bring more people to our city to appreciate the great arts that we have. And I would like to make a motion to adopt a resolution number 12712 to authorize agreement number 2022-069-COS-A1, amended and restated financial participation agreement with Scottsdale Museum of the West Inc. for fiscal year 2022/23 and a payment in the amount of \$250,000 to the Scottsdale Museum of the West as part of the management service fee.

[Time: 00:38:42]

Mayor Ortega: Second. And we have continued comment. Councilmember Graham and Councilmember Durham. We have a motion on the table.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor. If I wanted to ask a few questions about performance of the museum, Brent, would you be the one I could ask that about? Thank you. Thanks for your presentation, by the way.

So what was the -- I went back and watched the video. I think they projected -- I will step back just a little bit and kind of give you -- I want to approve this allocation, and I'm a big supporter of Museum of the West. It's a top-notch facility. It celebrates our western heritage. It is a great asset to the city. I want to ask some questions about kind of projections and actuals, if you will indulge us for just a minute.

In 2013, when this project was proposed, this partnership was proposed, they projected \$100,000 by year five, because we started in 2015, and they say it takes about five years to get going and then it stabilizes in 2020, we all know what happened in 2020, we don't need to talk about that but we also know that it was mentioned that tourism collections are higher than ever.

We know that people are coming here more than ever, and what is the issue because we want it to be a great -- we want it to -- we want Museum of the West to meet its promise and there's a lot of promise. What were the -- what were the attendance numbers? We were promised 100,000 a year and what have they been over the past several years?

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, Councilmember Graham, city council, so it sounds like you and Mr. Pejman and I were doing similar research this afternoon. I didn't go back and listen to the meeting, but I did go back and try to understand what we knew at the time. I wasn't involved in this, but there was a report that was prepared by an outside party in December of 2012, and it was part of the 300 some pages of packet to the council.

Councilmember Graham: We paid a consultant and they told us a vision. And the council approved it.

Brent Stockwell: Yes, exactly. I was providing a little bit of context on that. So what I focused on is I focused on looking at the executive summary from that consultant report which was part of a larger package, which was summarized in 9 two slides that Mr. Pejman showed up on the screen.

And included in that is a lot of information including the visitation. I just wanted to run through that quickly if I can to get to your question. So all of this had a context of the size of the museum, the construction costs, whether or not this was funding in reserves, what the opening date was, and what the attendance projection was.

And the attendance projection was based on a range and they included a bunch of comparable facilities and then projected this at higher than that, and the range that was noted on the slide was that attendance in the fifth year -- wait, I'm sorry, anticipated attendance in a stabilized year of operation, fifth year or later, that's from the report, would be between 87,000 and 118,000.

The 103,000 shown on the screen was midpoint in a stabilized year of operation. They also went on to say this would be about 55% from locals and about 45% from tourists. When we look at the attendance results that we have received from the museum, in fifth year of operation, it was 58,647, so below the 87,000 lower end, and then as you noted it, it was impacted by COVID for two years and just under 40,000 for last year.

So I did look at that, but I also looked at all the other categories and so the building is larger than it was supposed to be. It cost less than it was supposed to be, and there is an endowment in place now. It did open when it was supposed to. And then there's also other requirements.

Councilmember Graham: I have a few questions. If you could just answer the question I'm putting forward. There's a lot to go through. I want to respect the time of my colleagues. Operating expense was expected to be \$2.8 million per year. Do you know about what operating expenses at this point?

[Time: 00:43:52]

Brent Stockwell: Yes, the calendar year 2022 budget was \$2.7 million and the approved budget is \$3.2 million and that does include city support.

Councilmember Graham: And they also projected 29 full-time equivalent employees. Do you know their head count?

Brent Stockwell: I do not know that.

Councilmember Graham: Do you know anybody here who might know that?

Brent Stockwell: 21. Chairman Emeritus Jim Bruner is telling me, it's 21.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Jim, Councilmember Bruner. They would need \$2.75 million, \$1.5 million in operational revenue and 1.26 in nonoperational revenue. Do you know what the amount and composition of their revenue is in the preceding fiscal year?

Brent Stockwell: Yes, that was included in the packet when the financial participation agreement was approved, and I have a copy of the 2023 budget as well.

Councilmember Graham: You don't have that number handy, though, as far as for the sake of the audience?

Brent Stockwell: Not off the top of my head. I can show it on the screen if you would like.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Okay. Very good. You have to zoom in a bit.

Brent Stockwell: That's the 2023 budget for the city and the income section of the report. You can see what is included for operating income and what is restricted and unrestricted and you can see their net gross income there.

[Time: 00:45:31]

Councilmember Graham: What is the total for the operating income there? There's no subtotal.

Brent Stockwell: I can't do math that fast in my head, I'm sorry, councilman.

Councilmember Graham: I will continue. Thank you for allowing me to ask these questions. So in FY '17, we gave 380,000 to buy an art collection. We gave \$500,000 the next year for education programs. We gave \$200,000 in FY-'19 for marketing and I wanted to talk about the \$400,000. That was -- we were told at the -- in 2013 that the \$400,000 a year contribution would be five years and then it would stop. Is that now under the new agreement, is that a permanent support, financial support?

Brent Stockwell: No. I think as I mentioned in my presentation, councilmember, the management services fee is at the total and absolute direction of the council. It is set in the model agreement as a donations matching program, and then also the fixed costs but that's ultimately up to the council's direction. It is correct that it was originally for a five-year period of time and then they asked for that to be continued.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. So it has been continued since then, for two or three years?

Brent Stockwell: So we're in the eighth year of operation. So it was for the first five years and then continued for three, yes, correct.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Very good. And then are we -- I will continue my questions here. Can you tell us more about the Virginia Piper \$5 million donation. Can you say a little bit more about that?

Brent Stockwell: Well, I can go back on the screen here this was the announcement of the Piper Trust donation. That trust donation was announced to the city manager and myself. We received that information from them and then we also received information from the board's minutes and then their investment policy. I have copies of all of that. It was all provided to the city.

[Time: 00:47:49]

Councilmember Graham: So there's some sort of board-approved endowment. What kind of programs is that going to fund on a go-forward basis?

Brent Stockwell: I will have to pull that up in my documents or you could ask Jim Bruner to come up and speak to that.

Mayor Ortega: Yes, Jim, come up.

Councilmember Graham: Would you be willing to talk to us?

Jim Bruner: My name is Jim Bruner. I have been a resident of Scottsdale for 50-some years. I'm also, among other things, a Virginia Piper trustee. I was not involved in this, obviously, because of conflict, but I can tell you that the board thought very highly of the Museum of the West, most members are members -- trustees are members of the board.

This was to help give a fledgling institution, only six or seven years old funds for an endowment and the operating of that, they have a policy that 5% of that or \$250,000 every year will be used for whatever purpose, excuse me the board feels appropriate. I will tell you, though, that because the office and library, that the trust -- or that the museum has been using, basically was gone as the property was sold to the developer, we had to go find another place to have our

offices and library.

As a result of that, we used \$1.8 million to buy adjacent to it, for the offices and library. We didn't plan to do that but we didn't need to be out on the street. So that's what we did. But the purpose of the funds is to assist the museum and sustainability, something that the city was concerned about in the past.

So now we have an endowment, minus the money we have used to buy the building. Does that answer your question?

[Time: 00:50:05]

Councilmember Graham: Yes, thank you. Mr. Bruner, thank you for being here. Just a couple more questions and then I will wrap it up. Brent, the artwork and all the collection in the museum, whose ownership -- I know it's in the packet, but just for the audience and for the record who owns the art collection completely inside the museum?

Brent Stockwell: Okay. So the art that has been given to Scottsdale Museum of the West incorporated is owned by them. The nonprofit, that operates the museum. It is governed through the museum management agreement in Sections 5.5, 8.1 and 8.2 and if they cease to operate or the city terminates the agreement, the city has the sole authority and discretion to determine the 501(c)(3) that the artwork is transferred to and they have to notify us and their board has to approve to remove anything out of the collection.

Councilmember Graham: So anything that was gifted to the nonprofit remains or goes to the city is that what you said?

Brent Stockwell: No. It goes to an approved 501(c)(3) that the city council --

Councilmember Graham: Okay. So it transfers.

Brent Stockwell: And I tried to be careful in my response because in the collection they also have loaned collections that they don't own. So I just wanted to be clear on that.

Councilmember Graham: Yes, yes, I'm definitely not -- I know there's collections and exhibits that are loaned and they circulate and they go on tour. So when we go in there, about how -- just anecdotally, about how much of the art is the city's that we would revert to another nonprofit versus the -- versus the nonprofit.

Brent Stockwell: Councilmembers, my understanding is that the dollar amount that is under the museum's control is about \$70 million.

Councilmember Graham: Under the museum's control? That would not revert to us?

Brent Stockwell: And the loaned exhibits depend on whatever exhibition is there.

Councilmember Graham: And do you know about how much is the city's?

Brent Stockwell: None of that would be the city's collection.

Councilmember Graham: But I'm saying in the building, how much of the city -- that we would have variance power to move to another nonprofit?

[Time: 00:52:23]

Brent Stockwell: So councilmember -- Mayor, members of the council, I will try to answer that question. Everything else that is not art belongs to the city with very minor exceptions. The agreement covers that because the agreement is very careful to think about what happens. It's really trying to protect the city's interests and making sure that we have control over that. So the building, all the other features they belong to the city.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. My last question for the time being is -- I think that might be all of my questions for the time being, Brent. Thank you for answering my questions. Jim, Mr. Bruner, thank you for coming up to the podium and speaking to us tonight. My wish for this is really just a continued success or a more successful future for Museum of the West, as far as attendance and self-sustainability and how do we get, like, Sonnie Kirtley said, how do we get it to a point where this wonderful asset that the city has is no longer a secret to make a secret to fewer people.

Make it the destination that we all know it should be and can be and what it has to offer. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Next, Councilmember Durham and then Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilmember Durham: Thank you, Brent. Thank you, Brent. There were a couple of permutations of the \$250,000 there, that I think I got lost. We had agreed there was a tentative agreement to give \$250,000 and that was withdrawn or didn't go ahead in part because of the Piper Trust gift, right?

Brent Stockwell: Councilmember Graham -- Durham, sorry, members of the council, there was \$250,000 given for last fiscal year. The \$250,000 was not given for this fiscal year because it was not included in this fiscal year's budget.

Councilmember Durham: Okay.

Brent Stockwell: We did tell the council we were planning on working with them, and would

bring it back, and this is, I think, where the permutations came in. And this may, in part, been my confusion. I always think when you are giving someone money, you need to know what they can't do if they don't have it. So I ask that question.

What are you not going to be able to do if you don't have it? Because, of course, the museum has to pay the fixed costs. They are going to pay the fixed costs. So they are not going to have the money for education programming or whatever else. And so that's where the confusion came up.

We asked them to ask for what they can't do rather than what they could and I think we got you all confused and we won't do that again, but that -- I think that has added to the confusion. I'm sorry for that.

[Time: 00:55:31]

Councilmember Durham: Do we have any historical information on their marketing budgets and what they have spent on marketing?

Brent Stockwell: So every time the council approves the financial agreement for the museum, the museum's budget has been included in there. Every time because it's tourism development funds, it has to go to the tourism development commission for their recommendation and I have been in tourism development commission meetings on multiple occasions where your commissioners have asked them about the marketing issues and they have given presentations on that.

I do know that they have hired additional marketing staff, especially with focus on social media, and then also digital-related outreach. They have relayed that to us. I do recall looking in the budget for 2023 and they have a line item for I think \$135,000 in marketing. That's above and beyond the staff that they have. But that's been something that we have talked about on numerous occasions with them, and that's always been a subject discussion, particularly with the tourism development commission.

Councilmember Durham: There's nothing in the resolution that requires this money to go to marketing. Are there any other controls that would -- internal controls either through our tourism group or through the museum that would -- where we would make sure that money gets directed to marketing?

Brent Stockwell: So the way this agreement is written, you will see the last couple of lines there at the bottom, the annual payment shall be used for fixed costs, which would include, but not be limited to utility security storage, insurance, equipment rental, et cetera. I have heard the public comments and the conversation tonight.

The way that agreement is written right now, administrating that contract, we wouldn't agree

that that would be used for marketing, however, by them having that \$250,000 that would free up additional resources and I think we certainly heard that we need to have continued conversations with the TDC about additional marketing.

So I hope that answers your question.

Councilmember Durham: Yes, I guess this is where part of my confusion came in, because it says that the annual payment goes to fixed costs. Obviously, if we are paying some of those fixed costs that does free up other monies for the marketing and so on. I'm just -- you know, there seems to be a clear view among the members of the council that -- and of the public that more marketing is required so I'm a little bit concerned about making sure that that's where this money goes. Is there any type of monitoring that tourism development commission would do?

[Time: 00:58:40]

Brent Stockwell: Councilmembers, members of the council so we could take that -- if that was direction from the city council, we could take that back to the tourism development commission and talk about making a recommendation on the allocation of additional monies for marketing. I would caution if the council's intent is to change tonight this agreement to stipulate it for marketing, we would still need to talk to them about it and we should continue that to another item and get that fixed and bring it back.

But that's not necessarily what I heard from the colleagues, but more so that we need to make sure that this facility is not a secret, and market it better.

Councilmember Durham: And I don't want to tie their hands either with, you know, a specific recommendation of where the money goes. I do think your suggestion about making suggestion to tourism development that tourism development focus on the marketing issues. What would be a good idea?

Brent Stockwell: That certainly is consistent with what we are hearing from councilmembers.

Councilmember Durham: I definitely think that the marketing could be improved. I was going to go to a Cubs and Giants game a few weeks ago and got rained out. I was with someone and said, well, what are we going to do? And I had never been to SMOCA and -- which was close to the ball game. And my friend who has lived here in the winters for at least seven or eight years said, she had never been to the Museum of the West, which was a little bit of a shock to me. I would have thought that everybody who lives here has been there before. So definitely it could use some more exposure.

Brent Stockwell: Yeah. Councilmember, I have definitely heard that one of the things that makes it difficult for the museum is how beautiful the weather is here in prime season, and rainy days are often their busiest days.

Councilmember Durham: Yes, I think I have heard that from Mr. Bruner also. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Councilwoman Whitehead and then Councilwoman Caputi.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Thank you Mayor. Brent, you did such a succinct history of the museum and it definitely is influencing me and, thanks, Mr. Bruner, for being here too. There's times when the museum is asking for more money, but there's times that we have gotten more for the money than we expected to spend and so that's based on the description you gave. And so I'm glad about the \$5 million donation and it is worth pointing out that the city is not paying for the office.

So congratulations on acquiring that office on your own. So I'm going to support this. And thank you. I do love the museum and I go often.

Mayor Ortega: Councilwoman Caputi and then Vice Mayor Littlefield.

Councilwoman Caputi: Well, since this is the only item on our agenda tonight, if you could allow me, I will love on the museum for just a couple of minutes since I think that's what we are here for tonight. I want to remind everybody that in our general plan, we say in our vision statement that we will continue to be an exception Sonoran Desert experience and premier international destination, where our western heritage is valued.

Our distinctive character, Scottsdale, and with cultural and architectural detail, and I know everyone is supportive of the Museum of the West. So I'm just going to -- like I said I want to love on it for a minute. We also in our chapter on character and culture, point out we actually name the Museum of the West specifically. Which I don't think we do for many assets in this city.

[Time: 01:02:45]

So I'm fully supportive of this museum. We are the west's most western town. We hear it all the time and this Smithsonian-affiliate museum is the only museum we have in our city that celebrates our western spirit and heritage and that's an amazing thing. The city owns our building, which we have mentioned tonight. We're just here to approve the management service fee, and we need professionals who know how to run museums. That's not the city's business. So this is a wonderful thing for us.

Costs have increased everywhere in the last few years as we all know and yet the museum is coming to us with the exact same request, which I think is incredibly impressive. We have been complaining about cost overruns and every other project that we have seen. This is the first one that has come to us within the same budget which is pretty impressive. This museum has

successfully demonstrated that they can raise large amounts of private money from incredibly impressive donors.

They just received the largest donation ever, \$12 million which is basically going to be given to our city which is, again, an amazing thing. This museum is an asset, a public asset, and it benefits our entire downtown. We are always saying that we want a more vibrant downtown. This is the way we do it by supporting the things that bring in more business. I think this museum is seven years old, right? We need to remember Heard Museum, I think Mr. Bruner told me today is 90 years old.

That's incredible, just to put it into perspective. So perhaps they haven't been quite as successful as we would have originally envisioned, but I think -- and Brent you and I discussed this. If something is not as successful as we want it to be, I think why would we remove funding, right? If we want it to be more successful, I think we need to make sure that it has what it needs to actually attain the goal that it's trying to get by all means let's make sure that we properly fund this museum so that it can thrive and be a wonderful place for residents and tourists to visit.

And then I want to end by saying that this is a very sensible request. They are using bed tax dollars, which our residents told us would like -- they would like us to use those dollars to support our tourist attractions and that's what we are doing. It was unanimously approved by our tourism development commission, and so I give this contract my 100% support. Thank you.

[Time: 01:05:23]

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Vice Mayor Littlefield.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. I have always been a pretty strong supporter of the Museum of the West. I like the design of it. I like the look of it. I like the feel of it when you walk in the door. I have enjoyed the showings, the paintings, the sculptures, et cetera. I have had the opportunity and the pleasure to see. However, I don't think we can making any progress getting our financial house in order for the museum and that obviously has some problems with the past, with COVID and all this stuff, but we need to move forward from that now.

In fact, it's not seeming to get much better now as we see -- as we talk. I believe, like many of us up here, that the problem lies in the marketing. The museum was originally advertised to help activate our downtown area. We knew there would be building of more hotels and apartments and homes in Scottsdale and that people would be coming downtown, looking for things to explore and to experience.

The number of visitors to our museum should be increasing at this point dramatically, and I don't see that it is. I don't think they're not doing it because of lack of marketing. For example, I think they are not increasing is because of a lack of the marketing and I have a story for that, which is a true story. A couple of years ago, Bob and I -- it was not during COVID -- went down to

the Christmas festival at the canal bank with all the lights and the singing and all the fun stuff and we were running around and having a great time, lighting the Christmas tree and singing Christmas Carols and we decided we were going to go take a walk into the downtown area and see what was going on there.

So we crossed the Canal Bridge, went out to the street, and there was a trolley sitting this waiting for somebody to get on it. So we obliged and got the trolley and went trekking down the street. And there was one other couple on the trolley. A couple who were visitors here from Canada. A man and his wife and they were staying in a hotel. And we got to talking very briefly, and the lady asked, she said, do you know where the Museum of the West is? We wanted to go see it. And I look out the window of the trolley as we pass the Museum of the West. Dark. Doors closed. No lights. No advertising. We have a canal bank full of people, wanting to see stuff, go to the downtown, visit, find something interesting to do, but the museum was closed.

It was shuttered. And I pointed to it and I said, there it is. Go tomorrow morning. They will be open probably by 10:00. But we need the marketing. We need to not only market in general, but we need to anticipate and target the times in downtown when we have people down there who would want to go see the things that we have in the museum. Because it's a fascinating, fascinating museum.

So that's a true story and that's really what I see as one of the biggest problems. We need to focus on mark -- marketing. We need to focus getting people into the downtown, into the museum itself. I think the museum should be part of that activation of our downtown. It should be part of the funding that we give to the museum to help it stimulate this kind of thing.

[Time: 01:09:10]

It needs a business sense of some sort to move it forward. The doors need to be opened. The lights need to be on. The music needs to be playing. Whatever requires to draw people into it, to have them see what's inside. Maybe we ought to have something on the outside on the patio which would bring people in. The museum is a vibrant place, and it should be active and accessible to all parts of our downtown. To work with the rest of the downtown to make it all vibrant and to live as a part of the city's art and culture and its reputation.

It shouldn't be a closed door to anyone who wants to go. I like the museum. It's a wonderful place. They do a wonderful job. The architecture is unique and special to Scottsdale. And I -- but I don't want it to continue as it is, as a money loss -- a loss leader. It should be the dynamic point of people wanting to be there. So there needs to be some marketing changes. I think everybody up here is correct. It's a lack of marketing, and it's a lack of focus on when, how and whatever, and the money -- the \$250,000, that was meant to be a temporary bridge for five years to allow us to work towards financial sustainability.

Now, I will grant you, we've had some problems. We've had COVID. We've had a budget recession. We've had a couple of things. We extended it on a little bit. But I would like to ask Karen if you are here, if you could just stand right there. You have a budget for the Old Town marketing, I believe of \$750,000. \$480,000. Oh, it got cut. How much of that goes to the museum?

Karen Churchar: [ Off microphone comment ]

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Oh, I'm sorry.

Karen Churchar: Hello, Mayor, councilmembers, as far as our advertising, it's \$480,000 this fiscal year. We don't advertise specifically Museum of the West, nor any of our other assets. We -- we market different activities, if you will. We do arts and culture. We do entertainment, shopping, dining and actual wellness kind of spa hotel. So we do it in segments according to those five areas.

And we also promote around Scottsdazzle, our Holiday event you mentioned, June days and we also do Western Week. So we do four or five campaigns each year. But we're not specifically advertising a place: Other than Old Town Scottsdale.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: Well, I hope the rest of our downtown area is opening up during those festival times because the whole place was dark. And it wasn't just the museum. I think we need to bring those things together. I would kind of -- you know, the \$250,000 was not meant to be an annual stipend to the museum. It was meant to get the museum going, get it on its feet, and get the marketing started and so I have a problem just to continue on and on and on with this, without seeing some results from doing it.

I would like to see some reports, either quarterly or semiannually, on visitor count comparisons, one section to the next, and making sure that we're moving into the right direction. If those numbers aren't increasing, what can we do to increase them? Before the next five-year period or whatever. I would like to see if we can't move forward a little faster on some of that.

[Time: 01:13:19]

A short synopsis of changes and marketing differences should be presented to this council so we know what is going on and what is working and make sure that we are serving this market to the best of our ability. It is -- it's an important area of Scottsdale, not only for citizens, but for our visitors to come here not only the first time, but back and back and back again. Bringing their friends. And the museum is a big part of that. So I really support it, and I think we need to make sure it becomes a financial, independent status and I don't think that the -- that we should just sit back and say, well, hopefully it will turn around. We need to actively work toward this. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you very much. I just want to conclude with my comments. And, you know, my feeling is that I agree with many statements made by my colleagues, where I think the museum has been very successful, is attracting a reputation that brings key donors and expansion for such a young institution that's barely, you know, 8 years old.

To be durable, you have to have that buy-in by donors. And we certainly -- and they certainly have demonstrated that. I'm not here to make suggestions about their marketing concepts or hours of operation. I believe that that's in the qualified hands of the governance and their administration. We do rely on the convention tourist group to make their recommendations and I'm supporting that.

The other point that I will make, again, there's so many other comments that I can agree with, is that it does provide a community space, Sean -- and in many cases it adds to the corporate space. We have literally thousands of convention groups coming to Scottsdale every year. During Phoenix open, attention was up north. But there were over 650 convention groups in town. And this provides another venue that not only an entertainment venue, the hotels can refer their overnights, hey, try this out. It's very walkable, and part of our downtown experience. So I have nothing but praise for the group that's working diligently to make this work.

[Time: 01:16:12]

I look forward to the expansion and, again, that's a message of success. If you can attract that kind of investment as well as the volunteers. I think we have to give a big thank you to the volunteers through thick and thin, and COVID and so forth, but we have a great opportunity as a restart with tourism money, and new flow of people coming in. I'm told that we have 11 million visitors, right, in Scottsdale. So if we have 1%, 1%, that would be 110,000 visitors. And I think that's a worthwhile goal, especially in our downtown. I think it's achievable. I will do everything I can as Mayor and I know my cohorts will as well, in looking forward to the expansion and outreach.

With that, we have a motion and a second, and record your vote. Thank you. That's unanimous. And we're looking for the best in the year to come. Thank you so much.

Next, we are moving on to public comment. Public comment is the second opportunity to -- for people to step forward on any non-agendized item, but it would have to be within the council's jurisdiction. We do not permit speaking for a candidate or a -- a ballot proposition.

That's not within our jurisdiction. But we are open to receiving public comment. No official council action can be taken on non-agendized items, and you are limited to three minutes. We have a person, Linda Sullivan who would like to speak. Please state your place of residence, welcome and you have three minutes. Thank you.

Linda Sullivan: My name is Linda Sullivan. I live at 4311 north 68<sup>th</sup> place, I could have walked here faster, truthfully. I'm just here on two things. One, Barry, Councilman Graham, thank you so much for listening to your constituents. I'm LD-8 precinct committeemen. Sorry, some people like to say committeewoman and I'm not -- whatever. I have the precinct of Scottsdale.

So many have disagreed with this, but really I was disappointed having been -- I was part of the community because I live right here in Old Town, that the 68<sup>th</sup> street. I'm not sure when I went to the downtown development, Old Town Scottsdale character area plan, 68<sup>th</sup> street was not a part of it. And in the future, I would like to -- if you are going to have us come in and speak to it, 68<sup>th</sup> street is part of Old Town. So that's one thing.

And I do want to say, thank you, Councilwoman Caputi, if that's how you pronounce it, I'm sorry. For you listening to me. A really appreciate you -- you were very gentle and I had a lot of constituents that were like this with me. The other thing is I really just came here as well. We have a problem of homelessness and I don't really like calling it homelessness because they are not looking for a home.

[Time: 01:19:49]

They are drug addicts and I have a picture on Saturday walking my dog or actually my husband did, I'm so sorry. But my concern is across the street are children. It's a grassy knoll that we all use and I will show you --

Councilmember Graham: You can put that on --

Mayor Ortega: We can have that on record. You have one more minute. Maybe you can enlarge it on the Elmo.

Linda Sullivan: I don't know where to go with this. I just don't know what to do with this. We have a gentleman that we call him big gulp that is a frequent person. I know when he comes out of rehab and he's back on, we try to get his true name.

He's a different person all the time. I'm an Old Town resident for many years. I am just looking for advice for my neighborhood. I do want to say that I'm disappointed that the hotel that used to be like the Hampton inn, I think it was, it's been wrapped around, there are a lot of -- it's north of Indian School.

It backs up to Fifth Avenue. It's west of Goldwater, if that helps. It's been vacant for several years. We used it for COVID testing as a drive thru. I don't know if that makes it more familiar with you, but this is where they come from. And I would love to have seen this money go to the police to help. \$300,000 is what Scottsdale is spending and I love our police officers here in Scottsdale. You all are amazing.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. And appreciate your patience. Have a good evening.

Linda Sullivan: But no one tells me where to go? Or suggestions is all I'm looking for?

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We hear you and if there's a question from councilwoman, go ahead.

Vice Mayor Littlefield: You can give me a call at my home, if you like or in my office. There is a gentleman who is in charge of our human services. His name is Greg Bestgen, and he could probably give you some advice or some help.

Linda Sullivan: Nice. Thank you so much. My neighborhood thanks you as well.

[Time: 01:22:16]

Mayor Ortega: Next we will move on to citizen petitions. Item 17. It's an opportunity for a petition to come to, recorded at the clerk's office. There was none. So accordingly, I will close that item. We have no petition. At this point, I would request a motion and second for adjournment.

Councilwoman Whitehead: So moved.

Councilmember Graham: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Moved and seconded. Please record your vote. Good evening, everyone. We are adjourned. Thank you.