Commission Continues With District Changes

FRUITLAND PARK

The Fruitland Park City Commission addressed updated districts within the city at its meeting Thursday.

The commission approved the first reading of an ordinance to change city commission districts and a map depicting the districts.

As The Villages recently expanded into Fruitland Park, the city's population has increased. With the new map, the districts are split evenly among the mayor and four commissioners to meet legal requirements based on population.

The commission also discussed problems with the stormwater system and retention ponds at Mirror Lake Village. The city is working with developers, engineers and St. Johns River Water Management District to investigate the problems.

Several proclamations also were presented at the meeting.

The city proclaimed April 15-21 as Volunteer Appreciation Week, and a picnic will take place at noon April 21 at Gardenia Park Recreation Complex to recognize the city's volunteers.

In addition, April 8-14 was proclaimed as National Library Week and April 10 as National Library Workers' Day.

April was proclaimed as School Library Month, and the city encourages residents to support and bring awareness to the library at Fruitland Park Elementary School.

To get the city excited about the new Fruitland Park Library expected to be completed later this year or early next year - Library Director Jo-Ann Glendinning presented a video showing what local residents love about the current library.

She also shared some stats regarding the current library. There were 61,088 visits to the library in 2016 and

"I can just imagine what it's going to be by the end of this year," she said.

74,557 last year.

Regarding the new library the commission made a motion to accept a change order of \$75,000, which includes road reconstruction

and a fire sprinkler system. — Rachel Stuart, Daily Sun

'Red' Captivates Audience at Studio Theatre

The Studio's second season ended on a strong note with the insightful play.

By KRISTEN FIORE Daily Sun Staff Writer

Each production of the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's Season 2 explored the theme of commitment – to relationships, friendships, family, heritage and beliefs.

"Red," the closing title of the season, was about an artist's commitment to his creations.

John Logan's "Red" was well-written, intense and captivating, highlighted with The Studio's elaborate set and skillful actors.

Plot

Set in 1950s lower Manhattan, abstract impressionist Mark Rothko is given the biggest commission since the Sistine Chapel - a set of murals for Four Seasons, a new, expensive restaurant in New York City.

He's determined to turn the restaurant into his own chapel for his artwork, but Ken, his young assistant, questions the rationality of that thought process.

Ken endures Rothko's intense mood swings and angry outbursts, but eventually gets less tolerant.

Ken thinks Rothko is selfish, and Rothko thinks Ken, who was orphaned as a child, is needy.

The play explores the relationship between Rothko and his fictional assistant as they challenge each other to broaden their perspectives about what art is, what it should be and if Rothko's work really belongs in an uppity restaurant such as Four Seasons.



The Studio's space was fully utilized, with the audience sitting on the outskirts of a wide-open studio splattered with red paint.

With the space equipped with a sink and shelves haphazardly stacked with books, paint cans and rags, the audience felt like a fly on the paint-smeared walls of Rothko's work space.

The murals were mimed to be on these invisible walls, which left it up to the audience's imagination on what the art in question looked like - perfectly abstract.

Themes

While the overarching theme was the question of Rothko's commitment to his art, "Red" also explored a number of other themes, such as old vs. new, pop art vs. abstract impressionism and commercialism vs. art.

The meaning of colors, especially red and black, also was a big part of the play.

'There's only one thing I fear, my friend," Rothko told Ken. "That one day the black will swallow the red."

Rothko was very set on his idea that art shouldn't be beautiful, that it shouldn't be popular and that it shouldn't be "fine."

'We're a perfect nation living under the tyranny of 'fine,'" he said during one of his many rants. "I'm here to stop your heart. I'm not here to paint pretty pictures."

Characters

Rothko and Ken beautifully juxtapose each other.

Rothko is old, set in his ways, selfish and grumpy, while Ken represents the eager hopefulness of youth.

Although he fights it, it is ultimately through Ken that Rothko realizes what art really means to him.

Acting

While the set, costumes and writing were strong elements of

entirely by dialogue, and Lombardi and Butcher kept the audience captivated.

Audience Reaction

painter Mark

Rothko and

John Lombardi (as Rothko) and

Colton Butcher (as Ken) did

The two worked well together

The story was moved

and delivered convincing tears,

just that.

anger and emotion.

"Red" ended with a standing ovation.

"I thought it was wonderful acting," said Joanne Povilaitis, of the Village of Pine Hills. "It was one of the best shows we've seen at Tierra Del Sol."

Terry Fiorito, of the Village of Hadley, said Lombardi and Butcher were great.

"For two people to hold a stage for 75 minutes and capture all of our attention was just genius," she said.

The play also got viewers to really think about art.

"We knew who Rothko was, so it was interesting to put some of his life in perspective," said Bernie Cianci, of the Village of Hadley. "Art is hard, you know?"



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