



MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Approved 7/25/16

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Ruth Cazden, Paul Fadelli, George Gager, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Nga Trinh.
Absent: Mollie Hazen (excused)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Fadelli shared that he saw a lot of art in museums and parks while on a recent family trip to Europe; Also, he reported that the State budget includes increased funding for the arts.

Staff Liaison Iarla reported that Mollie Hazen will continue to serve on the Kensington Symphony Orchestra Board; the next show in the Gallery Space; details about the main stage performances on July 3 & July 4, the City's continued efforts to seek input on library priorities and that the Commission can anticipate an in-lieu payment to the Public Art Fund from the Creekside Walk developer when the project is completed.

2. Comments from the Public

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Postponed till next meeting

4. Consideration of Poet Laureate Selection

Iarla provided background information on the call to poets and selection panel's process. The Selection Panel was impressed with the quality of the applications and unanimously agreed to recommend Maw Shein Win be appointed as El Cerrito's first Poet Laureate.

Cazden said she was impressed with Maw Shein Win's proposal and that she found some online videos of Ms Win reciting her poetry.

Fadelli thanked Chris Sterba and also Selection Panel members Judith Tannenbaum & Patricia Durham for all their work.

It was moved (Cazden/Rand) to approve the selection panel's recommendation of Maw Shein Win be appointed as El Cerrito's first Poet Laureate. Unanimous.

Sterba also thanked Judith Tannenbaum for her input and time.

Ms. Tannenbaum said it was wonderful working with Chris; she enjoyed talking to all 7 of the top finalists, and she believes that Ms. Win was clearly the candidate who has the skills and experience to make the program a success.

Gager also thanked Chris.

5. ECCRU Update

Rand gave an update on the status of establishing the ECCRU program: the logo has been developed and a draft call to artist has been prepared. The Commission discussed and provided feedback on the draft call including to remove the priority given to working/teaching artists; change the term to be negotiable up to 12 months.

It was moved (Rand/Fadelli) to increase the stipend to \$1,200 for a 12-month term. Unanimous.
It was moved (Gager/Rand) to approve the draft call to artists as amended. Unanimous.
It was moved (Sterba/Rand) that establishing the ECCRU program is a high priority for the Arts & Culture Commission. Unanimous.

6. October's Arts Day Festival

There was continued discussion on the 2016 Arts Day Celebration event, including if a “festival” was too much to take on this year, and the ECHS Performing Arts Center or the City’s Community Center as preferred venue choices. There was consensus to hold the event on Saturday, Oct 1, 2016. Sterba, Fadelli and Rand volunteered to be on the planning subcommittee.

It was moved (Sterba/Rand) that the 2016 events for Arts Month will take place on Saturday, October 1 to involve 2 to 3 performers and be a civic kick-off for Arts Month; and to establish a subcommittee of Sterba, Fadelli and Rand to plan the event. Unanimous.

Iarla said the Arts Month street banners could be installed along the Avenue in September.
Sterba reported he has reserved the display area in the Library during October for Arts Month

7. Discussion on Serial Meetings/Brown Act

Iarla provided basic information on communications by and among commissioners outside of meetings, including how to avoid potential or perceived “serial meetings”.
Commissioner Resources are online at: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=110>

8. ACC Booth at July 4 Festival

There was a brief discussion about the Commission’s booth at the July 4 Festival including scheduling, purchasing materials for the art activity and other logistics, including the suggestion to purchase a Xyron crafting machine instead of relying on Rand donating her machine.

It was moved (Rand/ Sterba) to recommend staff spend up to \$150 for materials for the July 4 Festival, including a 5” Xyron machine. Unanimous.

9. Centennial Celebration Planning Update

Cazden reported on the progress of the Centennial Celebration Task Force and suggested the Commission should consider creating a subcommittee to work on arts-related Centennial Celebration ideas for 2017.

10. Consider Establishing New Subcommittee on Possible Venues

Postponed to next meeting.

11. Items for Next Meeting

There was discussion on items to put on the agenda for the next meeting including new subcommittees on venues and on the centennial celebration, ECCRU update, Arts Day planning and July 4 debrief; Also Gager to lead discussion on identification of possible exhibit spaces

Adjourned 9:08pm

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the ACC regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at City Hall - 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, during normal business hours.