



**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Approved 8/24/2017

7:02pm Roll Call

Present: Ruth Cazden, Heidi Rand, Judith Tannenbaum, Nga Trinh, Christopher Walsh.

Absent: George Gager (unexcused), Christopher Sterba (excused)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Staff Liaison Suzanne Iarla reported on the following items:

- El Cerrito Creative ReUse Artist Residency: Iarla has met with Maria Sanders (OESD Division Manager), the welder who will create the storage bin, and the selected Artist in Residence Sandy Drobny.
- El Cerrito Free Folk Festival: date has been changed to October 28, 2017.
- Del Norte BART station murals: Kyungmi Shin, the artist commissioned to create murals at the El Cerrito del Norte BART station, would like to be part of the October 2018 Arts Day or Arts Month celebration.
- City Hall Gallery Space: On Wednesday, July 26, from 5:30-7pm, there will be a reception for the current group art show in the City Hall Gallery Space, which is in celebration of July as Parks and Recreation Month.
- El Cerrito Poet Laureate Maw Shein Win will host a poetry reading on Sunday, July 30, 2017, at the Arlington Clubhouse. Featured readers will include a former U.S. poet laureate and an El Cerrito poet.
- El Cerrito Centennial: a poster announcing the celebration weekend in September is available; commissioners can let Iarla know if they would like to have some to distribute or display. A journal (which will be included in the time capsule) is available in the City Hall lobby for people to write entries.

2. Comments from the Public

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Walsh/Tannenbaum) to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 26, 2017 as amended. Unanimous (5-0).

4. Eve Ma Film Series Suggestion

El Cerrito filmmaker Eve Ma presented the idea of holding a screening series in El Cerrito, possibly having 4 events per year (one event per quarter). She envisions each event to include a film of approximately 30 minutes' duration, followed by a Q&A session. She named 4 possible local filmmakers (Steve Segal, Kevan Jenson, Natasha Rovnik, and herself) and said that there are plenty of filmmakers in the East Bay and Bay Area. Payment to the filmmakers could be in the \$50-\$100 range. Discussion followed about possibly using Rialto Cinemas Cerrito as a venue, as well as El Cerrito High School, other schools, or the Community Center as possible alternative venues. Iarla will research the Cerrito Theater as a possible venue. There will be further discussion at the next meeting, possibly to establish a subcommittee on this topic.

5. 2017 Work Plan Development

Iarla provided a draft 2017-2018 ACC Work Plan, and requested that the commissioners review the draft and send feedback to her within 2 weeks. The results can be discussed at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding comprehensive consideration of how the commission spends the “1% for Public Art” funds. It was suggested as an agenda item for the next meeting.

6. Reflection on July 4 Festival Booth

Rand, Trinh and Walsh reported on the success of the ACC booth at the 2017 July 4 Festival. The button-making activity was very popular, and the commissioners were able to engage in conversations with members of the public regarding the ACC and activities. Iarla reported that there was also considerable interest in the City Hall Gallery space, based on how many flyers were taken. Iarla also reported that Corey Mason felt that there was good attendance at the July 3 event. Mason will report to the commission later in the year.

7. One City One Book

Iarla reported that she met recently with El Cerrito Librarian Heidi Goldstein regarding the One City One Book program. Goldstein has decided not to pursue a partnership with the Kensington library in this regard. Two events are envisioned at the library in October: (1) a “book club-style” reading and discussion, and (2) a talk by author Vanessa Hua.

It was moved (Cazden/Trinh) to approve \$250 to pay for refreshments at the author talk in October. Unanimous (5-0).

Discussed followed regarding possible methods and locations to distribute the books.

8. Participation in Centennial Parade

Discussion as to the Commissioners’ participation in the Centennial parade on September 16, 2017, whether to have an ACC table/booth at the post-parade festivities in Cerrito Vista Park, and what materials to provide at the table.

9. Items for Next Meeting

A representative from the Economic Development Committee will make a presentation at the next ACC meeting.

Adjourned – 8:03pm