



**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission**

Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Approved January 22, 2018

7:03pm Roll Call

Present: Ruth Cazden, George Gager (arrived late), Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Judith Tannenbaum

Absent: Nga Trinh (excused), Christopher Walsh (excused)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Tannenbaum reported that the City of Albany Arts Committee has placed placards with seasonal haikus along the Ohlone Greenway and various other locations in the town.

Cazden reported that she has been contacted by David Ramadanoff, conductor of several Bay Area symphonies, who is interested in offering a 3-tiered music program in El Cerrito in the coming summer: (1) concerts by professional musicians; (2) accomplished amateurs would perform, under coaching of some of the professional musicians, and (3) coaching of and performance by beginning instrumentalists. This could culminate in a large performance in the late summer. Cazden learned that Parks & Rec may be able to offer some rehearsal space and possibly contribute to the stipend for the conductor. Next step is for Ramadanoff to create a plan and budget. Cazden is excited about this possibility, which would comprise performance and participation aspects.

Cazden also reported that the Performance Venue subcommittee will start meeting again in January.

(Gager arrived at this time.)

Sterba reported that he had presented the ACC 2018 Workplan to the City Council; there was a very positive response by the Council to the work that ACC does.

Staff Liaison reports (delivered by Margaret Livingston, City Manager department staff, for staff liaison Karen Pinkos):

Pinkos will provide an update on the ACC budget by email.

Regarding the Assistant to the City Manager position: 200 applications were received and reviewed. Interviews will likely be held in early January. There are some quality applications and Pinkos is very optimistic.

At the last City Council meeting, Sterba did a great job presenting the ACC 2018 Workplan, and the Council expressed praise and appreciation for ACC's work.

At the same Council meeting, the City Council passed the first reading of the commercial cannabis ordinance, which will allow for 2 dispensaries in El Cerrito.

Pinkos reminded the commissioners to submit their Centennial passports by December 12.

2. Comments from the Public

Eva Meyers was present, in order to check in on the status of a project she has previously presented to the ACC, a mural along the Ohlone Greenway at Fairmont Park. She spoke about the timing needs of the project: fundraising will need to occur before the mural work, which could happen in the summer of 2019.

Bob Helliesen, one of the organizers of the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival, reported that the 2017 Festival attracted 300 attendees and was a great success. He thanked the ACC for its support.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Tannenbaum/Cazden) to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 23, 2017, as amended. Motion passed (3-0; Gager and Rand abstained).

4. Review of Gallery Space Proposals

Commissioners reviewed 3 proposals:

It was moved (Cazden/Tannenbaum) to accept Sherrod Blankner's proposal for a group (3-person) Gallery Space show. Unanimous.

It was moved (Sterba/Tannenbaum) to accept Erin McCluskey Wheeler's proposal for a Gallery Space show. Motion passed 4-0 (Cazden abstained).

It was moved (Sterba/Tannenbaum) that staff request that Margery Hazelton provide images of the 12 works of art included in her proposed show, for consideration at the January ACC meeting. Unanimous.

Sterba described an idea for a Gallery Space show featuring Arhoolie album cover art and photo history of the cover design process. Such a show could possibly include a concert. He will request a proposal from Arhoolie/Down Home Music for discussion at the January ACC meeting.

5. Consider supporting Debra Pughe's Children's Writing Workshop Series Idea

Tannenbaum reported on Debra Pughe's proposal to offer writing workshops for children. Pughe is offering the workshops in honor of Poet Laureate Maw Shein Win. The program will be offered in the summer through Parks & Rec. There was discussion on ACC providing financial support, in order to give Pughe a stipend and keep fees low; the discussion included concern about setting a precedent on paying teachers at a certain level, versus setting stipends on a case-by-case basis, and about marketing the workshop program.

It was moved (Cazden/Rand) to approve Debra Pughe's writing working program and to provide a stipend of \$500 specific to this program, and not precedent-setting, to be paid upon completion of the program. Unanimous.

6. Economic Development Committee Partnership

There was discussion about creating a subcommittee to work with EDC. The discussion centered around Walsh's draft statement about arts and economic development, and the purpose and focus of any work that might be done in conjunction with EDC. Sterba will write up a statement to serve as general guidelines for the subcommittee.

It was moved (Sterba/Cazden) to create an Economic Development subcommittee. Unanimous. Sterba, Cazden and Gager were proposed as subcommittee members.

7. Consider Community Outreach Subcommittee

It was moved (Sterba/Rand) to form a Community Outreach subcommittee. Unanimous. Sterba, Tannenbaum and Rand were proposed as subcommittee members.

8. Report on Poet Laureate Spring Activity

It was decided to move this item to the next ACC meeting.

9. Items for Next Meeting

Pending topics:

Pending Topics: Eva Meyers' Fairmont Park mural idea; Earth Day Activity; Report from Corey Mason on July 3 performances; BART pylons mural proposal; Discussion on possible Gallery Space Support; Development of Policies/Procedures for the Commission; Rand to give presentation on "Little Free Libraries".

Consideration of City Hall Mosaics Project

Adjourned – 8:51pm