



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

Monday, January 23, 2017

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

Approved February 27, 2017

7:04 pm Roll Call

Present: Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Nga Trinh.

Absent: Mollie Hazen (excused)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Cazden described the Centennial calendar of events and Centennial passport, provided to commission members.

Sterba:

- Announced El Cerrito Poet Laureate Maw Shein Win's Poetry & Place series will start with an upcoming event on March 4, 2017. She also hopes to do a music & poetry event in a space in El Cerrito for Poetry Month in April; she has also met the National Poet Laureate.
- Gave an update on the One City/One Book project idea. El Cerrito Librarian Liz Ruhland has announced she is leaving the library, so this project may be postponed until her replacement is in place. Liz has shared the idea with the Friends of El Cerrito Library. Staff Liaison Iarla noted that ACC could inform the library of ACC's interest and support of the project.
- Mentioned that the subcommittee looking at venues for art has toured some spaces in El Cerrito as possible sites for art.
- Gager suggested that someone attend the upcoming EDC meeting (Jan. 25, 7pm, Hillside Room, City Hall) in this regard.

Cazden raised the notion of having the poetry event on the same day as the Time Capsule Dedication (Aug. 23, 2017).

Iarla mentioned the State Poet Laureate will hold an event in El Cerrito on April 20, as part of his statewide tour.

Iarla reported that the City Council will be reviewing the City's Strategic Plan and announced that the new ACC Council liaison is Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto. Iarla also introduced Margaret Livingston, Management Assistant, a new member of the City Manager's Office who will be working with Iarla.

2. Comments from the Public

No comments from the public.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Rand/Cazden) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016 without corrections. Unanimous.

4. Mural Proposed by Eva Meyers

Resident Eva Meyers made a presentation (attached) to propose a community-involved project to create a mural on the retaining wall along the Greenway adjacent to Fairmont Park. Meyers doesn't plan to do the art, but hopes to do the fundraising and manage the process.

Following the presentation, the Commission asked questions and had a discussion. Cazden asked about what ACC's involvement would be, and requested a description of the demands (time, energy & engagement) the project would place on ACC, to help them gauge this in terms of other ongoing projects.

Sterba expressed that ACC would like to continue the discussion to see this mural happen, and would appreciate more structured information. Rand suggested that Meyers come up with an RFQ. Meyers and Iarla will prepare an update for the next ACC meeting.

5. Update from ECCRU subcommittee

Rand provided an update and led a discussion about the call for submissions. The subcommittee has developed an outreach list for the call. Iarla said that a flyer can be produced and mailed by City staff. The commissioners would like to create a button; Sterba reported that a previous button cost about \$80 for 250 Poet Laureate buttons.

It was moved (Rand/Gager) to spend up to \$100 for ECCRU button. Unanimous.

Rand reported that subcommittee is unable to organize an event in February.

6. Update on Gallery Space

Iarla spoke about the "Parks and Recreation Month" themed show to be held in July or June/July.

Following discussion, there was consensus regarding:

- Focus: parks, open space & outdoor recreation
- Limit one submission per person
- Preference for El Cerrito residents
- Issuing a call in February for entries for the show
- Create a subcommittee to do a preliminary review of submissions
- ACC review submissions in April

7. Create a Centennial Artwork Subcommittee

Discussion about creating a subcommittee to put out a call for a piece of existing artwork for a decision by October. Cazden pointed out that October would be great, but not absolutely critical, and that the format of the artwork will also affect the timing. Iarla said depending on the type of work, it may not be possible to have it installed by October. Discussion about whether this art purchase could be un-coupled from the Centennial. Sterba suggested that existing subcommittee on art venues could investigate spaces further and then report back to ACC.

Gager asked if Commissioners could submit a proposal (for the ACC to purchase or commission art) and Iarla explained no.

Motion (Rand/Sterba) to request that existing subcommittee (Sterba, Gager, Trinh) also develop ideas for commissioning a piece of public art. Unanimous.

8. Earth Day Event

Iarla described ACC's involvement in Earth Day celebration in years past. Rand and Trinh volunteered to run the ACC art activity during the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2017 at the Community Center.

Motion (Sterba/Rand) for Rand & Trinh to host an art activity table at Earth Day. Unanimous.

9. Screening of "This Ain't No Mouse Music"

Iarla provided background (the planned October screening was cancelled due to power outage), and said that the Historical Society has requested that ACC take the lead as the organizing entity. Proposed date is April 23 in the morning. Iarla will invite the 2 film makers, but it is not likely that Chris Strachwitz (of Arhoolie Records) would attend.

Motion (Rand/Trinh) to approve the re-scheduled showing of “This Ain’t No Mouse Music” on April 23. Unanimous.

10. October Arts Month Event on October 21, 2017

Sterba noted that 2pm-5pm is the accepted timing for the event, which will have a focus on El Cerrito’s heritage. His desire is to promote the musical aspect of the event, possibly partnering with Down Home Music Store staff to help create the program. There was a discussion regarding the venue for the event. Ideas included the ECHS Performing Arts Theater or other public schools, private schools and local churches. Iarla will check on whether churches are appropriate/allowable venues for a city-sponsored event. Sterba stated a preference for a public (civic) venue, and expressed the need to establish a subcommittee on this topic.

11. Items for Next Meeting

There will be continuing discussions next month. Sterba announced that the presentation by Down Home Music can be deleted.

Adjourned – 8:59pm