



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, July 22, 2013 at 7:05 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Approved August 26, 2013

Roll Call: Present: Acting Chair Donovan, Commissioners Danziger, Hawley, and Rand. Absent: Commissioners Cazden and Zavala and City Council Liaison Friedman.

1. Selection of Officers for 2013

The Commission decided to table this item until the August meeting.

2. Council Liaison / Staff Liaison Report (including budget status) / Commissioners Reports

Karen Pinkos, acting as Staff Liaison, reported provided an update on items discussed by the City Council at their last meeting including the purchase agreement for property near the Hillside Natural Area and a voter polling survey on City facilities. Commissioner Hawley reported that she met with the West Edge Opera, seems to be a wonderful organization, they are doing fundraising, and she offered any assistance the ACC could provide. Commissioner Hawley also discussed the Folk Music Festival with members of that group, they are still looking for an auditorium or venue to replace Windrush.

3. Comments from the Public

Annie Goodsill, 758 Alcatraz Avenue Unit B, Oakland CA 94609: Ms. Goodsill addressed the Commission regarding a possible mural project. She teaches classes in El Cerrito at the Canyon Trail Art Center. She asked the Commission if there might be interest in a mural on the side of the Art Center. She would like to include her classes in the development of the mural. She is excited to be part of a revitalized art program in El Cerrito.

The Commissioners were supportive of the idea and asked Ms. Goodsill to develop a proposal including costs and other details and work with staff to eventually bring it back to the ACC for discussion.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Hawley, seconded by Commissioner Danziger, to approve the minutes of June 24 with a corrected sentence to read, “Resident George McRae commented *in* support of ACC meetings now being held on Monday nights.” Motion approved unanimously.

5. Proposal to co-sponsor “Coast Modern” as a Community Use Day at Rialto Cinemas Cerrito

Resident Sean Kline addressed the ACC requesting their co-sponsorship of the screening of a new documentary film, Coast Modern (<http://coastmodernfilm.com>) at Rialto Cinemas Cerrito in the Fall. Karen Pinkos provided the staff report. Mr. Kline felt that the event will support the ACC’s vision by highlighting local architecture. The film production rental fee amount is \$200. He indicated that this would be the first Bay Area showing of this film, and that it would be an opportunity to bring in residents from the area and beyond to appreciate El Cerrito and its contributions to local architecture. Several Commissioners indicated that they had viewed the

movie or its trailer and were enthusiastic and supportive of the idea of co-sponsorship, as well as the ACC and the City providing assistance with outreach and promotion of the event.

Moved by Acting Chair Donovan, seconded by Commissioner Danziger, to co-sponsor a “Coast Modern” at Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, to assist in promotion of the event, and to recommend using \$200 of the ACC budget for payment of the production rental fees. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Update on San Pablo Avenue Public Art

Artist Jonathan Russell provided an update on the status of “12 Wind Sculptures”, the San Pablo Avenue Public Art Project. Final installation is Thursday, July 25. They are moving a couple of sculptures to different locations, because as they have been placed they have discovered that trees may be blocking them or they do not have as much visual impact as originally thought. The Commissioners discussed the grouping of the sculptures, and Mr. Russell suggested that because they can be moved, the ACC should leave the sculptures as they are placed for the time being, and they can change locations later should they so decide. The artists have worked with City staff to install the pieces, and going forward staff can maintain and move the sculptures themselves as needed, or the City can hire the artists to assist in moving the pieces. Mr. Russell showed the Commission and members of the public videos and photos of the various installations. Mr. Russell complimented El Cerrito for its cooperation, he thanked the Commission, staff and City Council for their work and support on this project. The Commission would like to update the City Council on the completion of this project, perhaps at the Council meeting in September. The ACC thanked Mr. Russell for his work and update.

7. Discussion on the Draft Arts and Culture Master Plan

The Commissioners reviewed the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan. They discussed several sections and provided some minor edits. Additional research is being done by Staff Liaison Suzanne Iarla as well as Commissioner Cazden, both of whom are absent. The ACC will discuss the Draft Master Plan further when the research is provided to the entire Commission.

8. Planning for Arts Month Celebration

The Commissioners discussed possible ways to celebrate Arts and Humanities month in October. Members discussed working with schools and perhaps doing something different than has been done in previous years. They discussed ideas to be inclusive to multiple populations, and how to get the most “bang for the buck”. The Commissioners agreed to place this item on the August agenda to discuss further.

9. Items for Next Meeting/Future Meetings:

1. Arts Month
2. Public Art Wrap Up/Presentation for City Council
3. Promotion for “Coast Modern”

Pending Topics: El Cerrito Free Folk Festival (co-sponsored by ACC, tentative date October 12, 2013); Discussion about possible Recycling Center “Artist in Residency” Program; Rich Fowler’s Art Walk idea; Recycling and Environmental Resource Center Public Art Project

Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.