



**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

Adopted March 20, 2013

7:05 p.m. Roll Call: Commissioners Cazden, Hawley, Rand, and Sethi were present. Commissioners Donovan and Zavala were absent.

1. Selection of Commission Officers for 2013

Commissioner Cristin Sethi volunteered to serve as Chair. Commissioner Hawley seconded. It was then moved to elect Cristin Sethi to serve as Chair for 2013. Unanimous.

It was then moved (Hawley/Sethi) to elect Nancy Donovan to continue to serve as Vice Chair in 2013. Unanimous.

2. Council / Staff Liaison / Commissioners Reports

Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed new Commissioner Ruth Cazden and new Council Liaison Friedman.

Council Liaison Friedman provided an update on recent Council activity including process on the strategic plan, and spoke about the draft Climate Action Plan and the STAR Communities program; Staff Liaison Iarla provided an update on the San Pablo Avenue Public Art Project; the Urban Greening Grant; announced the City's Earth Day will be on April 20, 2013; and vendor applications are now being accepted for the City's July 4th Festival.

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Cazden/Hawley) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 14, 2012. Unanimous.

5. 2013 El Cerrito Free Folk Festival

Mr. Ken Hayes and other members of the San Francisco Folk Music Club provided a history of the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival and talked about plans for the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival in 2013. The Club would like the Commission to co-sponsor the event, which is planned for Saturday, October 12, 2013. In the past, the Commission has co-sponsor the event including a \$500 contribution, staff assistance with site logistics and promotional support. The Club would like be to continue to hold the festival at the former-Windrush School, with El Cerrito High School as their second choice. They plan to contact the new owners of the former-Windrush School. There was Q&A followed by discussion among staff and the Commission.

It was moved (Hawley/ Cazden) to support the San Francisco Folk Music Club's El Cerrito Free Folk Festival for 2013 by co-sponsoring and providing staff support in securing a site. Unanimous.

Commissioner Hawley asked the Club members to return at a later date to discuss possible additional support.

6. Update on Arts and Culture Master Plan

Assistant City Manager (and former ACC Staff Liaison) Karen Pinkos made a presentation on the background and status of the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan. There was Q&A followed by discussion among staff and the Commission.

There was agreement to consider combining some of the goals, such as:

- Combine 1,3,4,5 and 9
- Combine 2 and 8
- Combine 6, 7 and 11

There was discussion to revise the Commission's mission statement to:

Advise the City Council of the needs of the artistic and cultural community; encourage and promote arts programs and events that engage the community and local businesses with the intent of building a flourishing and vibrant arts and cultural *network*; provide advice to artists and arts/cultural organizations by sponsoring forums, programs, and events; carry out the Arts in Public Places program, and upon request, advise the City with respect to possible sources of funding, all with the purpose of making El Cerrito an exciting and successful arts and cultural community.

7. Items for Next Meeting/Future Meetings:

The next meeting should include the continued discussion on the Arts and Culture Master Plan, as well as consideration of hosting an art activity at the Earth Day celebration. Other future Topics: Recycling and Environmental Resource Center Public Art Project; Rich Fowler's Art Walk idea.

The meeting adjourned around 9:05 p.m.

February 26, 2013

Arts & Culture Commission
Via Suzanne Iarla
City Hall
10890 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito CA 94530

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the El Cerrito New Library Committee, I am writing to provide you with more information about the new library project.

The committee is currently assembling a proposal for the City's consideration for the 2013-14 City budget and work plan. At this point, we expect the request will include some or all of:

- an update to the existing 2006 Library Facility Needs Assessment, incorporating more community input, demographic changes, and new standards in library practices and technology;
- a preliminary site analysis, to help hone in on the best possible sites; and
- additional open hours at the current facility to better meet community needs.

We are also working on fundraising to contribute to those efforts, community outreach to build awareness of the unmet need for a new library, forming a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and enhancing our website, <http://newelcerritolibrary.org/>. If you have not visited our website yet, please do so, and sign up for regular e-newsletters for all the latest information as we move forward. Down the road, if your commission is interested, we would be happy to schedule a presentation at one of your meetings.

We welcome any individual suggestions about how to advance the new library project. You can reach our Chair, Steven Poulos, at smpoulos@comcast.net, or me at lorentz18@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Amalia Cunningham
Vice-Chair