



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

Approved March 28, 2016

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Ruth Cazden, Paul Fadelli, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba.

Absent (Excused): George Gager, Mollie Hazen

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Chair Cazden announced that Commissioner Deb Danziger has resigned. Cazden and others expressed thanks and gratitude to Deb for her service and said she will be missed.

Staff Liaison Iarla mentioned a number of upcoming events, encouraged Commissioners to take the library needs survey, announced that the City will be conducting the National Citizen Survey, announced the Gallery Space reception on 3/4/16 and reported that the City Council has created a Centennial Celebration Task Force.

Iarla also shared a message from ECHS Band director Keith Johnson.

Sterba reported that he has been doing outreach for the Poet Laureate program and would like to have the Commission consider holding a poetry-related event in April.

Fadelli reported that he attended the ECHS Jazz Festival and also recently saw a presentation by the California Arts Council on their 40th Anniversary.

2. Comments from the Public

ECHS Dance Program Director Jessy Kronenberg announced an upcoming community event, the “Backstage Salsa Dance Party” on 3/26/16 and invited the Commission to attend and to help spread the word about this fundraiser for the school’s dance program.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Jan, 25, 2016 were approved unanimously. (Moved Rand/2nd Fadelli)

4. Consideration of Co-Sponsoring Trail Trekker’s Poetry Hike Series

Jenny Hammer, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, said the first poetry hike was successful with 11 attendees. She requested co-sponsorship of a series of poetry hikes, including help to distribute hike flyers and possibly money to print the flyers. If ACC were to co-sponsor, the City’s logo would be included on the flyers. Hikes would be held on March 13, April TB and May 15. After some discussion, it was moved (Cazden/Rand) to support the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers poetry hike series (between now and July 1, 2016) including up to \$100 to help promote the three hikes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. July 4 Festival

Recreation Director Christopher Jones gave a presentation regarding the City’s annual July 4 Festival and discussion how the ACC could become more involved in this annual City event. Many commissioners expressed that the Festival is a wonderful event. Ideas shared included:

- ACC underwrite the performance on July 3rd again
- Could Contra Costa Civic Theatre participate in the event (open the theatre)
- Provide support for local participating artists

- Underwrite Festival Mainstage Director's stipend
- Make a documentary of the Festival

Commissioners thanked Mr. Jones for his time, and will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

6. Development of 2016 Annual Work Plan

Iarla led a discussion on the Commission's work plan for 2016, including events the Commission plans to hold or participate in. The plan will be considered for approval at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting:

Poet Laureate Update and proposed poetry event in April by Sterba; Approval of the Dec 2015 minutes

Other Pending Topics: BART pylons mural proposal; Brown Act overview; Gallery Space Proposal Reviews; Hazen to lead discussion on Gallery Space Support; Gager to lead discussion on identification of possible exhibit spaces; Development of Policies/Procedures for the Commission; Rand to give presentation on "Little Free Libraries"

Adjourned