



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, April 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Approved 5/23/16

Roll Call

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

Absent: George Gager (excused), Mollie Hazen (unexcused)

1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

After a brief discussion about the role of the Chair, it was moved (Fadelli/Rand) to elect Commissioner Sterba to serve as Chair. Sterba accepted and it was approved unanimously. It was then moved (Sterba/Fadelli) to elect Commissioner Rand to serve as Vice-Chair. Rand accepted and it was approved unanimously. Terms are through March 2017. Commissioner Cazden thanked the other commissioners for their service on the Commission. Chair Sterba took over the meeting and thanked Ruth for her service as Chair.

2. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

- Commissioner Fadelli also thanked Ruth and said she did a great job presenting the Commission's work plan to the City Council in April.
- Commissioner Cazden reported she has been selected to serve on the City's Centennial Celebration Task Force.
- Staff Liaison Iarla mentioned the summer issue of the Recreation Department Activity Guide is now available, mentioned upcoming City events and announced the current show in the Gallery Space ends on May 3. The final version of the Commission's work plan was distributed to Commissioners.
- Chair Sterba reported that the Poetry Reading with Jack Marshall on April 12 was a success with over 80 attendees. He also provided an update on the Call to Poets and said the upcoming poetry event planned for May will instead be held in June. He also reported that he and Iarla participated on the BART review panel to review 3 proposals for new murals to be installed at the Del Norte Station and there will be another meeting of the panel next month.

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. Approval of Minutes

There was discussion regarding the wording of the motion to support the Free Folk Festival. It was moved (Cazden/Rand) to approve the revised minutes of the meetings of March 28, 2016. Unanimous.

5. Presentation by Down Home Music

Deferred to a future meeting.

6. October's Arts Day Festival

There was a discussion on planning for the 2016 Arts Day Celebration, including:

- Commissioner Cazden said last year's event was successful, needed more publicity, a similar type of event would be easier to plan this year since a lot was learned last year, however, it would require an active subcommittee as it is too much for just one or two people to do it well.
- There was discussion about if the event should be combined or separate from the ECAA's annual art show (held each October at the Community Center); if the event should be one day or a series. There was agreement to hold the event on a Saturday in October at City Hall, not to conflict with the ECAA Show or the Free Folk Festival.

- Commissioner Fadelli would like to see display/sales opportunity for local artists
- Chair Sterba would like to include local dance schools, and could identify films and a poet
- Commissioner Cazden said it would be easy to identify musicians interested to play
- Commissioner Rand said publicity is important. There was discussion about publicity in City brochures/newsletter; having dance or music classes perform so their friends/family come to see the performance and possibly evaluating the “draw” each performance/activity will provide for the event.

Chair Sterba asked Commissioners to be prepared next month to each identify 4 possible activities/types of performances. Iarla will check the availability of City Hall in October.

7. Gallery Space

Iarla reported that the City Hall Gallery Space has scheduled exhibits through the end of the calendar year and recommended to not do outreach to promote proposals at this time. Normally, the Commission reviews proposals in May and November each year. After some discussion, it was moved (Cazden/Rand) to not put out a call for Gallery Space shows in May, but instead, to do a call for proposals to be reviewed in October. Unanimous.

Chair Sterba also said he would like to see the Gallery Space brochure updated.

8. Status of Poet Laureate RFP Poetry Event(s) in April/May

Chair Sterba discussed the plans for the upcoming poetry event, to be held in June, not May as discussed last month. The event would feature two young latina poets, music and also involve local students. The event will be held at the Off the Grid Food Truck Market.

Commissioner Rand thanked Chris for his work on the Poet Laureate program and getting people out to the event held at the library in April.

9. Items for Next Meeting

Items for the May meeting include presentation by Corey Mason; presentation by staff at Down Home Music; continued discussion about Arts Day planning, ECCRU discussion and possible Brown Act brief training.

Adjourn

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the ACC regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at City Hall - 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, during normal business hours.