



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

**Monday, October 24, 2016**

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

*Approved December 5, 2016*

**7:01 p.m.: Roll Call of Commissioners:**

Present: Paul Fadelli, George Gager, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Nga Trinh.

Absent: Ruth Cazden, Mollie Hazen

- 1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports** Karen Pinkos, acting staff liaison, gave Commissioner Hazen's report in her absence.

- 2. Comments from the Public**

Silvia Ledezma of Richmond introduced herself as a member of the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission (AC5) appointed by County Commissioner John Gioia.

Nick Arzio reminded members of the ACC and CPC joint subcommittee for murals on BART tracks.

- 3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved and seconded (Rand/Trinh) to approve minutes of September 26. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Reflections on 2016 Arts Month**

Kickoff Event: Commissioner Rand praised the kickoff event and complimented Commissioner Sterba on his work. Commissioner Fadelli said that the event was fun to work, also praised Commissioner Sterba. Commissioner Sterba reported that Commissioner Cazden also felt it went well, that ACC should consider the sound/acoustics of the auditorium. Liaison Pinkos read a report sent to her from Commissioner Hazen that the event was a great success and expressed appreciation to all involved.

Film: Unfortunate power outage affected Cerrito Theatre event, should check on the deposit for the movie.

Free Folk Festival: Commissioners felt the Folk Festival was a good event but would like to try to help with marketing to increase attendance. There was also competition from a soccer tournament, so try to check timing.

Publicity: Commissioners were frustrated that Arts Month banners didn't appear to be up in time and would like report back on that. Commissioners also discussed having more events highlighted and spaced out throughout the entire month, try to attract students and young people, utilize social media and website, and expand Arts Month to also focus on other organizations or businesses throughout October.

Sterba also thanked Councilmembers who were at the event.

Meeting places are wheelchair accessible. *To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or MP3 file, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Suzanne Iarla, Staff Liaison at 215-4318 at least FIVE (5) working days notice prior to the meeting to ensure availability.*

## **5. Update from ECCRU subcommittee**

Commissioner Rand reported that the subcommittee met at the Recycling Center, looked at site, reviewed history, and the main focus is to get up and running in 2017. Considerations included asking Liaison Iarla to create a webpage for the project like the initial Poet Laureate page when that program was under consideration, determine a place for the artist to work by having the subcommittee research and locate options including a covered bin that the artist could gather and store material, and explore paying for administrative help to be paid through the Public Art Fund. Subcommittee will work with staff to move this project forward.

Moved/seconded (Sterba/Rand) for the Arts and Culture Commission to authorize creation of a webpage for ECCRU Artist in Residency project where people can find out about program and sign up for additional information as program develops. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved/seconded: (Rand/Trinh) to authorize ECCRU subcommittee to research and locate options for a storage bin for ECCRU artist in residency program. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved/seconded (Rand/Fadelli) to authorize subcommittee to explore possibility of paying City staff from Public Art Fund to do tasks to move project forward. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Consider Holding a Joint Meeting with the Economic Development Committee**

Commissioner Gager reported that at the last meeting of the EDC they were excited to work with the ACC, saw potential synergy between groups, and suggested a joint meeting. Commissioners discussed this idea and came to a consensus that they would ask Commissioner Gager to invite the EDC to propose tasks and ideas for events and activities that would involve some component of the arts (example: look at opportunities for empty commercial spaces for temporary art venues). Commissioners were concerned about taking on new projects considering their workload but agreed that it would be a good idea to brainstorm to look toward work together on future activities.

## **7. Consideration of Gallery Space Proposal from the ECHS Photography Club**

Moved/seconded (Sterba/Gager) that the ACC select the ECHS Photography Club's work to be exhibited in the City Hall Gallery Space. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Gager encouraged City staff to consider other parts of City Hall to display artwork.

## **8. Items for Next Meeting**

Commissioners agreed to cancel the regular meetings of November 28 and December 26 and hold a special meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016.

*Pending Topics:* Gallery Space Proposal Reviews (Dec); Joint Meeting with the Economic Development Committee, BART pylons mural proposal; Presentation by Down Home Music; Hazen to lead discussion on Gallery Space Support; Development of Policies/Procedures for the Commission; Rand to give presentation on "Little Free Libraries"; Discussion of hosting film series or film festival

## **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.*