



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

Monday, December 5, 2016

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

Approved 1/23/17

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

Present: Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Nga Trinh.

Absent: Mollie Hazen (excused)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Staff liaison Iarla announced Commissioner Paul Fadelli was elected to the El Cerrito City Council and therefore is no longer serving on the Commission. Iarla also reported on the City's upcoming winter break office closures.

(out of order) Iarla also shared an update from Hazen regarding KSO.

Sterba:

- Thanked Iarla for her service with FEMA in Louisiana and said he was glad she's back in El Cerrito now.
- Announced Ashanti Kahallel is planning to open a new business on the Avenue (in the former El Cerrito Electric store) that will be an art gallery and possibly also serve soul food. Iarla was asked to give an update on this business at the next meeting.
- Announced Poet Laureate Maw Shein Win will host a poetry event in early March at the library. The event will be a reading and open mic.

Sterba then led a moment of silence for the victims of the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland.

2. Comments from the Public

Bob Hellieson and Ken Hayes from the SF Folk Music Club reported on the successful 2016 El Cerrito Free Folk Festival. Attendance was between 300-400 people. They liked the main stage being in the small gym and the kids' stage in the cafeteria.

They thanked the Commission for the extra financial support for publicity, and reported the cost for the venue was higher than expected as WCCUSD required an additional janitor this year.

The festival was mentioned by KPFA, KLAW & the East Bay Times.

The weather and the Giant's game might have influenced attendance.

The club feels it is a good partnership with the city and wish to continue the relationship.

Rand agreed it is a good partnership and commented that the Club's website and social media outreach were better this year.

Sterba thanked them and said the festival offers a good program. It's nice that it's part of Arts Month in October, but ideally, it would not be held on the same weekend as the El Cerrito Art Association's annual art show, which is also a popular event.

Mr. Hellieson explained that the festival is held the week after Hardly Strictly BlueGrass is held in San Francisco.

Resident Eva Meyers expressed interest in developing a proposal to create a mural on the retaining wall along the Ohlone Greenway near Fairmont School. She offered to organize community/youth involvement in the mural and will work with Iarla to bring something with more detail back to the Commission in January.

3. Request to Co-Sponsor ECHS Jazz Festival (taken out of order)

Keith Johnson thanked the Commission for their sponsorship of the 2016 Festival last year and said the event was well attended and well received. He announced the Third Annual El Cerrito Jazz Festival is taking place on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the high school.

Johnson requested the Commission consider contributing \$1,500 towards the festival to help cover event costs. If there is any extra revenue from event ticket sales, it would go towards the school's music program.

Some folks from outside El Cerrito attend the festival. Sponsorship money would go towards the event.

There was some discussion among the commissioners, including that sponsoring this year did not imply an ongoing commitment.

It was moved (Cazden/Sterba) to sponsor the 2017 Jazz Festival this year in the amount of \$1,500. Unanimous.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved and seconded (Rand/Trinh) to approve minutes of October 24, 2016. Motion passed 3-0 with Cazden abstaining.

5. Update from ECCRU subcommittee

Rand gave an update on the status of developing the ECCRU program, including the timeframe to issue to RFQ in February with an early April deadline and having the ACC select the first ECCRU artist at the May meeting. The subcommittee was also interested in having a notice go out in January and holding a hands-on activity in February.

There was also discussion about the need to increase the amount for the artist's storage/sorting bin at the center and incidental supplies to \$3,000.

It was moved (Rand/Cazden) to increase the allocation not to exceed \$3,000 for the bin and incidentals like safety vest, grabber, etc. Unanimous.

Sterba thanked the group and said Heidi has been working on this project for 3 years. The new effort ties into the City's principles of environmental sustainability and it will also be fun!

6. Participation in Centennial Celebration

Cazden reported on the Centennial Task Force's plans for 2017, including a big event during the weekend of Sept 15-17.

There was not interest in the ACC taking the lead on the Friday night Centennial event on Sept. 15 event; however, there was consensus for incorporating the centennial theme into the annual Arts Month event in October.

Since there are other events each Saturday in October, there was some discussion about holding the event on a Sunday.

Sterba suggested the program should include 3-4 musical performances that reflects' El Cerrito's history (i.e. Ohlone, Spanish Era, Blues/Swing from 30s/40s, a Creedence Clearwater Revival cover band, Japanese music)

There was a preference to hold the ACC's Arts Month event on Saturday, October 21st from 2pm-5pm; or, if that conflicted with the Trail Trekker's event, then later such as 3pm-6pm.

It was moved (Sterba/Trinh) for staff liaison Iarla to request the Trail Trekkers move their event on 10/21/17 so that the Arts Month Centennial Celebration could be held on that date from 2pm-5pm; however, if that was not possible, the celebration would be 3pm-6pm. Unanimous.

Trinh asked if the City could commission an artist to put a sculpture (or mosaic or painted mural) on the blocks in front of City Hall. There was consensus for installing artwork in front of City Hall.

Cazden felt a commissioned work wouldn't have to be constrained by the centennial timeframe.

There was consensus to put the matter of purchasing a piece of artwork on the next agenda, and to delay further discussion on possibly commissioning a piece of artwork to the future.

7. Consider Supporting "One City, One Book" reading program in 2017

Commissioners were interested to hear more about this idea from librarian Liz Ruhland at a future meeting and postponed deeper discussion.

8. Review of Gallery Space proposals

After review of all the submissions, the following artists were selected to have an exhibition in the Gallery Space in 2017:

- Group show by Students at El Cerrito Canyon Trail Art Studio
- Tana Hakanson

- There was also consensus to have a show on July for Parks & Recreation Month that focuses on El Cerrito parks, open space and outdoor recreation.
- The group was undecided about the proposal from Erin McCluskey Wheeler and may revisit it in the future.
- The Commission declined proposals from Kenneth Courter, Evie Groch, Dana Mano, Jennifer Kapnek and Katie McGuire.

9. Items for Next Meeting

Iarla announced the regular meeting of Dec. 26 has been cancelled.

Street Banners for Arts Month should be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjourned