



**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE  
Arts and Culture Commission  
Wednesday, April 18 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
El Cerrito City Hall – Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners Donovan, Franco, Hawley, Halasz, Rand and Zavala were present. Commissioner Lupinsky was absent.

**1. Comments from the Public**

Resident Al Miller thanked the Commission for their work on the San Pablo Avenue Public Art Project and suggested the City consider installing one or more “Peace Poles” on the Ohlone Greenway after it has been restored. He felt the Peace Poles could integrate the cultural diversity of El Cerrito.

Ken Hayes with the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival spoke about the need to find a new location for the annual event due to closure of Windrush School. Staff will work with Ken in considering other local facilities (Harding, El Cerrito High, Community Center, etc.)

Resident George McRae suggested Cerrito Vista Park as a possible location for the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival.

**2. Council / Staff Liaison / Commissioners Reports**

Staff Liaison Iarla provided information in upcoming City events and Council Liaison Benassini provided an update on recent Council activities.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2012 were approved. (Unanimous.)

**4. Introduction of new Members**

Commissioners introduced themselves to new Commissioners Heidi Rand and Luis Zavala.

**5. Discussion and possible action regarding meeting facilitation**

Commissioner Donovan led a brief discussion regarding effective meetings. There was agreement to use the white board when brainstorming/discussing item, establish a more formal process for “big decisions”, and to allow time for each Commissioner to provide a 1-minute check-in at each meeting.

The opportunity for Commissioners to check-in will be part of the “Commissioners Reports” on future agendas.

*-continued-*

**6. Discussion and possible action regarding Recycling and Environmental Resource Center Public Art Project (7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito)**

Staff Liaison Iarla provided information about the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center Public Art Project and Chair Hawley spoke on behalf of the selection panel (Tad Costerison with Noll & Tam Architects, DRB members Maggie Leighly & Glenn Wood, ACC members Joyce Hawley and Paul Lupinsky and City staff Maria Sanders and Garth Schultz). Only three (3) proposals were received in response to the Call to Artists, however, two do not meet the minimum requirements for the project and the selection panel was not comfortable making a recommendation with only one accepted proposal.

There was discussion, including the project complexity and budget, distribution and response time to the call, exclusion of non-local artists, and flexibility to be creative, and the desire to communicate with the one responsive artist.

It was discussed that the call should remain limited to Bay Area artists, have a response time of at least 60 days, be distributed more widely. The scope should take out the "other elements" so as not to detract from the required elements and articulate the desire for creative responses.

It was moved (Donovan/Halasz) to revise and re-issue the Call to Artists as recommended by the selection panel. Unanimous.

Staff will revised the call and provide ACC with a copy of the call and where it is distributed to. Staff will also contact the one responsive artist.

**7. Discussion and possible action regarding participation in upcoming City Events**

After discussion about participation in the City's July 4th Festival, Heidi & Luis volunteered to spend some hours at the informational table.

It was moved (Rand/Hawley) to participate in the City's July 4th Festival. Unanimous.

**8. Liaison Assignments**

Chair Hawley said she and Commissioner Franco have not yet introduced themselves to Ifshin Violins and that the Friends of the El Cerrito Library are launching a fundraising campaign.

Commissioner Rand shared information about the Pinole Artisans ([www.pinoleartisans.org](http://www.pinoleartisans.org)) and stated she would like to advocate for small businesses; see more art programs offered by the City; and felt the fee is too high for instructors through the City.

**9. Items for Next Meeting/Future Meetings:**

Items for the next meeting include the Gallery Space review, Peace Poles and the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**