



**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

As Approved on June 11, 2014

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Ruth Cazden, Deb Danziger, Heidi Rand & Christopher Sterba
Commissioners absent: Michele Jawad, Luis Zavala (one vacancy)

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports (including budget status)

Commissioners welcomed Christopher Sterba and everyone provided brief introductions.
Council Liaison Greg Lyman reported on recent Council activities since November.

Staff liaison Iarla reported that the Council appointed two new members, Michele Jawad and Christopher Sterba and there is still one vacancy; reported on a meeting with staff from Streets Alive regarding their utility box art program; reported on efforts to find a venue for the Free Folk Festival;

2. Comments from the Public

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Rand/Cazden) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 18, 2013. Cazden and Rand were in support and Danziger and Sterba abstained.

It was moved (Rand/Cazden) to approve the edited minutes of the special meeting of February 3, 2014. Cazden and Rand were in support and Danziger and Sterba abstained.

4. Role of Council Liaison

Staff liaison Iarla presented information regarding recent changes to the role of Council Liaisons and new requirements such as how votes are recorded, establishing an annual work plan, and ethics training.

5. Discussion on Adopted Arts and Culture Master Plan

Staff liaison Iarla requested clarification on the intent of the November 18, 2013 motion adopting the Arts and Culture Master Plan. The motion made in November, at Iarla's suggestion, adopted the Master plan and also included a recommendation to the City Council that "the Council regard this master plan as the basis of any Arts and Culture element when the General Plan is revised." While reporting on the adoption with other staff members, this specific language was questioned, as it may have financial and other considerations that were not discussed by ACC.

There was a discussion regarding if the Master Plan should be a Commission document that guides future Commission decisions or a policy of the City Council that would impact decisions made by other City advisory bodies and departments and would require an action of the Council to change in the future.

Commissioner Cazden request staff to come back at a future meeting with information on the advantages and disadvantages of the two options. The discussion was continued to a future meeting.

6. Update and Logistics Regarding of Lucas Valley Chamber Orchestra Performance

Update by Commissioner Cazden on the Lucas Valley Chamber Orchestra concert on Sunday, April 17, followed by discussion. The concert will benefit the City of El Cerrito Recreation Department's David

Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund. Cazden hopes if this event is successful that the Commission would consider creating an annual music series.

In addition to the outreach being done by Cazden and the LVCO, staff liaison Iarla will draft a press release about the concert, Commissioner Rand offered to blog about it and post the information online and Commissioners Danziger and Sterba offered to circulate some flyers.

7. Earth Day Celebration

Staff liaison Iarla led a discussion about supporting a hands-on art activity at the City's annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

It was moved (Danziger/Sterba) to authorize up to \$150 to contract with East Bay Depot for Creative Re-Use to lead an art program at the Earth Day Celebration. Unanimous.

8. City Hall Gallery Space

Staff liaison Iarla provided an update on the scheduling of exhibits through 2014, requested guidance on the level of outreach to conduct prior to the next regular review of submissions in May, and requested the Commission consider approving an El Cerrito Summer Camp Artists show in July 2014 to display student artwork. After some discussion, there was consensus not to do additional outreach to solicit Gallery Space proposals before May and there was also consensus on support for the idea of a Summer Camp Art show in July.

9. Continued Discussion on Possible Creation of Artist-in-Residency Program associated with the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center.

Staff liaison Iarla reported that in 2003, a 1.547 acre property located at 945 King Drive was bequeathed to the City with the intent to use the property as public park or open space to be known as the "Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Park". The property includes a 2-story ranch-style home that would require significant work if the City wished to make it into an artist's workspace and/or gallery, etc.

After discussion, there was consensus that the Commission would like to be kept informed about the status of the Rosenberg Property, but discussions about possibly establishing an Artist-in-Residency Program would be considered separately.

10. Items for Next Meeting/Future Meetings:

Items for the next meeting include selection of Chair, annual work plan, RERC Public Art project (Artist-in-Residency).

Staff liaison Iarla should check-in with Annie Goodsill and Rich Fowler regarding their respective proposals.

Adjourned