



**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE  
Arts and Culture Commission  
Monday, June 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

*Approved July 24, 2017*

**7:05pm Roll Call**

Present: Ruth Cazden (arrived late), George Gager, Heidi Rand, Christopher Sterba, Judith Tannenbaum, Nga Trinh, Christopher Walsh (arrived late).

**1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports**

Iarla reported on the following items:

- The Centennial Celebration Planning Task Force has inquired as to how ACC will participate (walk or vehicle) in the September 16 parade. Postponed discussion until next meeting.
- Iarla and Sterba met with El Cerrito Librarian Heidi Goldstein to discuss the One City One Book program: what it might look like and how to make it a success. Goldstein is considering working with Kensington library, which is interested in same book. Sterba has contacted the author of "Deceit and Other Possibilities," Vanessa Hua. Sterba reported that Friends of Library has agreed to contribute \$900, which, in conjunction with ACC's support of \$500, will allow 100 copies of the book to be purchased.

Tannenbaum reported on the following items:

- Regarding the County Library system's writing program at Juvenile Hall, Tannenbaum met with librarian, and will continue to report as she learns more.
- An El Cerrito resident has contacted U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith about the possibility of doing a reading sometime in El Cerrito. Smith responded and is considering an appearance.
- Sterba and Tannenbaum went to hear Tia Carroll in Point Richmond. Pat Durham, who was also present, knows many musicians and is interested in putting together a concert of local artists in 2018.

Sterba reported regarding Arts Month celebration: have performers and sound engineer.

**2. Comments from the Public**

Eve Ma, an El Cerrito filmmaker, reported that her film, "Masters of Rhythm," will screen on July 27, 2017 at La Pena in Berkeley. She provided a postcard about the event, which is attached. She invites the commissioners to the screening. She will discuss possible film series at the next ACC meeting, as an agenda item.

(Cazden arrived at this time.)

**3. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved (Rand/Tannenbaum) to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday, May 22, 2017 as amended. Unanimous (6-0).

**4. Request for Co-Sponsorship of 2017 "El Cerrito Free Folk Festival"**

Bob Helliesen, of the San Francisco Folk Music Club, announced that the permit for the September 30, 2017, event at El Cerrito High School has been secured. He provided a letter to the commissioners that requests support and contribution by ACC of \$600 (for half of janitorial costs) and \$250 for publicity (attached).

It was moved (Cazden/Rand) to support the 2017 Free Folk Festival in the amounts of \$600 and \$250 for a total contribution of \$850. Unanimous (6-0).

**5. Selection of ECCRU Artists**

Iarla reported that the Call for ECCRU Artists resulted in 8 qualified candidates. The Selection Panel reviewed the submissions and then interviewed 6 candidates. There was strong consensus regarding candidate Sandy Drobny, who has served twice as an Artist in Residence and uses recycled materials in her artwork. Rand concurred as to the agreement among the panelists about Drobny as the top candidate.

(Walsh arrived at this time.)

There was discussion about the timing of the 6-month residency, particularly in regards to the Arts Month celebration and Earth Day.

It was moved (Tannenbaum/Trinh) to approve the recommendation of Sandy Drobny as the first ECCRU Artist in Residence. Unanimous.

Sterba cited the efforts and endurance of Iarla and Rand and previous commissioners in bringing this program to fruition. He also suggests introducing Drobny to the City Council.

**6. 2017 Work Plan development**

Iarla reported on compiled feedback from 6 commissioners regarding ranked priorities of ACC efforts/support. Discussion ensued regarding which specific activities/efforts might fall in which general categories.

Sterba suggested presenting Sandy Drobny, ECCRU Artist in Residence, to City Council at the same time as the ACC Work Plan. Iarla will check on the timing of doing so.

**7. Community Workshop by BART Muralist Kyungmi Shin**

Iarla reported that Kyungmi Shin, the artist BART has commissioned to create murals at the El Cerrito del Norte BART station, would like to hold community workshops and has inquired about city events/activities at which she could present a workshop, and whether the City can provide volunteers during the workshop. After discussing El Cerrito community events, there was consensus that Shin should consider a stand-alone event. Iarla will work with Shin based on the ACC's input.

**8. Consider Accepting Gift from Nga Trinh**

(Trinh recused herself from this item.)

Iarla presented to the Commissioners the procedure and criteria for the City to accept a gift of public art. Trinh's artwork is unframed; the framing costs would come out of Public Art fund. Discussion followed regarding expenses to frame and install the artwork.

It was moved (Walsh/Cazden & Tannenbaum) to accept Trinh's artwork and to provide funding up to \$400 for framing and installation costs. Unanimous (6-0).

(Trinh returned to the meeting.)

Commissioners thanked Trinh for donating the artwork. The Hillside conference room was suggested as a possible location for the artwork and/or for ACC meetings.

**9. July 4 Festival (taken out of order)**

Discussion regarding activities and staffing of ACC booth at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival on July 4, 2017.

**10. Music Venues Subcommittee Update**

Cazden reported on subcommittee's approach to researching music venues in El Cerrito. They have created an initial list of types of venues (attached). The subcommittee hopes to create a database of venues and their characteristics; they will research any permitting processes.

**11. Gallery Space Proposal Review**

Iarla reported that the artist selected at last ACC meeting is not available during the August-September period. Mei-Yu Black and Joanne Uomini have submitted a proposal for a joint show with a landscapes theme.

It was moved (Rand/Walsh) to accept proposal for the City Hall Gallery Space show. Unanimous.

**12. Items for Next Meeting**

A representative from the Economic Development Committee will make a presentation at an upcoming ACC meeting.

*Adjourned – 9:03pm*



## San Francisco Folk Music Club

1609 Woolsey Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Since 1948

June 26, 2017

The City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission  
10890 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Dear Commissioners,

The San Francisco Folk Music Club respectfully requests your support as a co-sponsor in putting on a sixth El Cerrito Free Folk Festival at El Cerrito High School, on Saturday, September 30, 2017. The club and the city through the Commission together put on similar festivals at El Cerrito High School in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and put on earlier festivals in 2009, 2010 and 2011 at Windrush School. (Due to the closing of Windrush in 2012, the festival was not held in 2012 or 2013 due to lack of a site.)

Last years festival was successful, with more than 300 attendees. The earlier festivals were also successful, with hundreds of people attending, enjoying and participating in music performances and workshops. We expect a similar or greater turnout for the 2017 festival. The festival will involve the contributions of many volunteers including a number of locally known musical acts. At the high school we plan to use the same rooms as last year including the cafeteria, the gyms and the outdoor quad area and other spaces for workshops, and this year the school will allow us two classrooms for workshops.

In past festivals, the Commission as co-sponsor has supported the festival with a \$500 donation to help cover custodial expenses. Last year the school raised its rates, charging us for additional custodial support. We request you honor us with a \$600 donation in 2017. Also, last year you were kind enough to honor us with a \$250 contribution for publicity, which we found very helpful, and we would request you do this again.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Helliesen  
Board Member, San Francisco Folk Music Club  
Co-chair, El Cerrito Free Folk Festival Committee  
[Bob\\_helliesen@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob_helliesen@yahoo.com) 510 528 0334

## Arts & Culture Commission - Music Venue Subcommittee

- I. Members
  - A. Christopher Walsh
  - B. George Gager
  - C. Ruth Cazden
  
- II. Goal: Locate venues for performance for classical music and other music genres
  
- III. Investigate different types of venues
  - A. Public schools
  - B. Private schools
  - C. Vacant commercial real estate
  - D. Occupied commercial real estate
  - E. Outdoor venues:
    1. parks
    2. Camp Herms
  - F. City-owned venues - indoors
    1. Community center
    2. Clubhouses
    3. CCCT
  - G. Retirement communities
  - H. Service Clubs
  - I. Religious institutions
  
- IV. Develop data base of potential venues including
  - A. What type of music
  - B. Number of people accommodated
    1. performers
    2. audience
  - C. Daytime or evening performances
  - D. Pros & cons
  - E. Cost
  - F. Parking
  - G. Access to public transportation
  - H. Neighborhood restrictions and/or objections
  - I. Restroom facilities
  - J. Accommodate food & drink
  - K. Available for holiday events
  
- V. Investigate need for ordinance pre-approving use of venues for performance