



MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Approved March 26, 2018

7:02 pm Roll Call

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

Acting Staff Liaison: Karen Pinkos

1. Commissioners Reports & Liaison Reports

Pinkos reported that final interviews for the Assistant to the City Manager position will take place this week. The City Council is considering becoming a Charter City, and has established a Charter Committee.

Pinkos is working with the Finance department to provide detailed information regarding the Public Arts Fund and the ACC budget, and will present it at the next ACC meeting.

The Mayfair Housing project was approved by the City Council. The City Council will soon announce the latest appointments to boards, committees and commissions.

2. Comments from the Public

Ariel Plotnick and Samantha Clark, UC Berkeley School of Journalism students, talked about their project, an audio-documentary and a 'zine about Tepco, the defunct dishware company in El Cerrito. They will work with Pinkos in regards to making a proposal to ACC.

Eileen Libby, with the El Cerrito Art Association, expressed appreciation for ACC's support of the annual art show. Libby also inquired about payment for the Centennial mosaic; Pinkos is working with the City attorney about a purchase agreement.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Rand/Tannenbaum) to approve the minutes of the meeting on January 22, 2018. Unanimous.

4. Proposal from El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative for "Messy Art Day"

Roger LaChance, Daniel Barth, and Dana Lancaster of El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative, presented a request for support for the annual "Messy Art Day," to be held on March 18, 2018, in the amount of up to \$1000.

It was moved (Cazden/Trinh) to approve \$500 for Messy Art Day. Unanimous

5. Update on ECCRU Artist-in-Residency Program

Sterba reported that the subcommittee met with ECCRU artist Sandy Drobny. Drobny will do a demonstration of her arts at the Earth Day event on April 21 at Community Center. She will also do another demonstration/workshop at the Recycling Center on a Saturday, which will include other weavers. Drobny has also suggested that she do a fashion show of clothing, using recycled materials, to include some of her elementary school students.

Sterba raised the possibility of extending Drobny's residency for an additional 6 months. Pinkos reported that the ECCRU contract doesn't include provision for an extension, so an addendum to the contract can be executed. Pinkos posed to ACC that they consider whether to provide additional stipend.

This is suggested as an item for the next ACC meeting.

6. Update on Poet Laureate Program

Discussion of timing and procedure for Call to Artists for next Poet Laureate (Maw Shein Win's term ends in September 2018). The call can go out in April or May and the selection can occur in July.

It was moved (Sterba/Rand) to re-form a Poet Laureate subcommittee. Unanimous. Subcommittee is Sterba, Tannenbaum & Rand.

7. Update from ACC/EDC Subcommittee

Cazden reported that the subcommittee met with the EDC subcommittee and presented 2 possible ideas for collaborative projects. They await response by the EDC subcommittee.

8. Earth Day Event

Sterba reported that ECCRU artist Sandy Drobny will do a demonstration of her art at the Earth Day 2018 event. Following discussion, it was decided that the ACC will also do an additional activity at the event.

9. Update from Community Outreach Subcommittee

Tannenbaum reported that the subcommittee met with Tibetan community group regarding activities that might be appropriate as proposals to ACC. Sterba met with Andrew Ting, who holds music classes for youth, about Ting's suggested activities, which might be appropriate for Recreation summer camps.

One intention of the subcommittee is to familiarize the commissioners with resources and people in El Cerrito and vice versa, i.e., to help the community understand the process for approaching ACC.

Sterba reported that he met with Ken Kantor, a retired acoustics expert, regarding the Community Center; the expert provided suggestions as to how to improve the acoustics in the Center.

10. Items for Next Meeting

ACC Budget (KP to provide information)

Extension of ECCRU contract and/or additional stipend

Poet Laureate Subcommittee: timeline and RFP

Adjourned – 8:35pm