



Staff Liaison

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MINUTES

MEETING OF THE Arts and Culture Commission

Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:02 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Cazden called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL – Present: Chair Ruth Cazden; Members Allison Cooper, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Christopher Walsh. **Absent:** Richard Fernandez, Blake Washington.

2. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Janel Abelson provided an update on a Council Declaration of a Climate Change Emergency, the Tenant Protections Taskforce selection,

Member Nichols introduced himself as the newest member of the Commission. Member Gager reported that Economic Development Committee has ideas about ways to work with the Arts and Culture Commission for this year's Restaurant Week. Chair Ruth Cazden reported greetings from former commissioner Tannenbaum, that there was some community displeasure with developer initiated art at the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Workshop and their desire to see more public art along San Pablo Ave., and the success of the Community Orchestra Program concert on Saturday, August 24. She read letters of support from participants in the orchestra program.

Staff Liaison Maya Williams provided an update on events from the August 22 City Manager's Update. Williams reported that the Commission update to the City Council will be moved to the Council meeting on October 1, 2019.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Suzanne (Last Name unknown), Beginning Orchestra participant, spoke in support of the Commission continuing the Community Orchestra Program.

Lisa Leal, Beginning Orchestra participant, spoke in support of the Commission continuing the Community Orchestra Program.

Gary Pieroni, Beginning Orchestra participant, spoke in support of the Commission continuing the Community Orchestra Program.

Buddy Akasic, community member, provided ideas for future ideas for the Commission's consideration.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the July 15, 2019 special meeting and the July 17, 2019 special meeting.

Moved/Second: Member (Cooper/Walsh) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 and July 17, 2019 meeting, with amendment to correct the date to read Wednesday, July 17. **Ayes:** Members Ruth Cazden, Allison Cooper, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Christopher Walsh. **Noes:** None

5. CIVIC ARTS PROGRAM

Steven Huss, Public Art Manager, Walnut Creek, presented and provided information about Walnut Creeks' public art program.

6. REPORT - EL CERRITO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Keith Johnson gave a report about the 2019 El Cerrito Jazz Festival.

7. COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

Moved/Second: Member (Cazden/Nichols) **Action:** The Commission approved a proposal to continue the Community Orchestra Program with a Fall Beginning Orchestra Class to begin on October 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The class would be taught by Kyle Baldwin, who would receive 100% of the class fees, in exchange for him teaching the class. The Commission approved an amount not to exceed \$2000 to cover the cost of room rental, staff costs for rehearsal and performance, and an allocation of \$300 for financial assistance, available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Ayes:** Members Ruth Cazden, Allison Cooper, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Christopher Walsh. **Noes:** None

8. ECCRU UPDATE

Commissioner Cooper and Staff Liaison Williams provided an update on the ECCRU application review. The ECCRU Selection subcommittee was comprised of Laureteen Brazil (Recycling Center Staff), Member Cooper, and Linda Levitsky (Executive Director of East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse). Due to the low number of applicants, the ECCRU Selection subcommittee asked the Commission to extend the deadline to Monday, September 16. The Commission discussed the possibility of shifting the residency start and end date to accommodate the selected resident or to include more of the Summer months.

Moved/Second: Member (Cooper/Walsh) **Action:** To extend the ECCRU application deadline to Monday, September 16 at 4 p.m., with the condition that the Commissioners market the residency above and beyond the usual channels to ensure a wider pool. **Ayes:** Members Ruth Cazden, Allison Cooper, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Christopher Walsh. **Noes:** None

9. OCTOBER ARTS MONTH 2019

Chair Cazden reported on the Ad Hoc Town Hall subcommittee meeting, where they brainstormed about how the Commission could have a town hall to gather public input about the City's public art program (Cazden, Gager, Washington). Given that there is not enough time to design a process for the town hall meeting

before October, Staff Liaison Williams will begin to look for a consultant to facilitate the Master Plan update that would include a townhall at a later date. Williams will work to get facilitative support by the September meeting.

The Commission agreed to frame and market all the arts activities happening in the City during October. Member Walsh will design the poster as in years past.


10. ACOUSTIC UPGRADE UPDATE

Staff Liaison Williams presented a report about the \$17K quote to make minimum sound upgrades to the Community Center, so that it could be used as a performance space. Due to the cost, Williams will follow-up with Recreation Director Chris Jones about developing more funding. Commissioners will begin to explore ideas of other locations in the City that might be used for performances.

11. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES


- a. Ad Hoc Townhall subcommittee (Cazden, Gager, Washington) – updates given during item #8.
- b. Performance Space subcommittee (Gager, Walsh, Cazden) – No updates
- c. Publicity subcommittee (Walsh, Cooper) – No updates

12. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



Ruth Cazden, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Arts and Culture Commission meeting of August 26, 2019 as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.



Maya Williams, Staff Liaison