



**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
Arts and Culture Commission
Thursday, March 22 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

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

Assistant City Manager Karen Pinkos administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Rand and Zavala.

1. Comments from the Public

None.

2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved (Donovan/Lupinsky) to approve the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of February 15, 2012. Unanimous.

3. Public Hearing Regarding the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project

Chair Hawley opened the public hearing on the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project; Staff Liaison Iarla presented a brief report, followed by a presentation by Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide on the Final Design Proposal. The Artists answered the Commissioners questions about the project; George McCrea said he liked the design but had some concerns regarding copper theft and durability over time; Neil Goldberg spoke in support of the proposal. There were no other public comments; Chair Hawley closed the public hearing and the Commission deliberated.

It was moved (Donovan/Lupinsky) to approve resolution 2012-01 (Attached). The motion passed 5-0-2 with Rand and Zavala abstaining. The artists then thanked the Commission.

4. Liaison Assignments

Chair Hawley reported she and Commissioner Franco have not yet introduced themselves to Ifshin Violins; there were no other liaison updates. Commissioner Rand is in contact with the Pinole Arts Association and the Kensington Symphony Orchestra.

5. Selection of Sub-Committee for Public Art at the new Recycling and Environmental Resource Center

Staff Liaison Iarla spoke about the Public Art at the new Recycling and Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito) and requested two Commissioners to volunteer to serve on the selection panel review all the proposals in April. Hawley & Lupinsky volunteered to serve on the selection panel.

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6. Discussion and possible action regarding participation in upcoming City Events

After discussion, the Commission declined to host an art at the City's Earth Day celebration as only Commissioner Rand volunteered.

7. Council / Staff Liaison / Commissioners Reports

Council Liaison Benassini welcomed the new commissioners and provided a brief update on recent Council activity. Staff Liaison Iarla reported on upcoming City events. Assistant City Manager Karen Pinkos gave a brief report on the Arts and Culture Master Plan. The matter will be agendaized for a future meeting.

8. Items for Next Meeting/Future Meetings:

Commissioner Donovan suggested time for new Commissioner introductions, meeting facilitation and time to review the process for the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Attachment: ACC Resolution 2012-01

RESOLUTION 2012-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO APPROVING THE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THE SAN PABLO AVENUE STREETScape PUBLIC ART PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito's Art in Public Places Program requires certain development projects to designate 1% toward Public Art; and

WHEREAS, the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project, a City/Redevelopment Agency project, is subject to the Art in Public Places Program, and

WHEREAS, the Arts and Culture Commission has the duty of oversight of public art in the City of El Cerrito and determined that it desired to commission a project that was elemental in nature: continuous, consistent, site-specific works along the entire length of the Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Arts and Culture Commission, through a Call to Artists/Request For Proposals process selected the artist team of Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide ("Artists"); and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2010 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Artists to commission this project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the contract, the Arts and Culture Commission and the artists held a series of public meetings where the proposed design and placement of the icons were discussed and suggested direction on the design of the icons was provided to the Artists by the Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, at a public hearing on July 14, 2011, the Arts and Culture Commission rejected the Artist's proposal to create and install a series of fifty (50) colorful, metal icons to be installed on streetlight poles on the length of San Pablo Avenue that are meant to "tell El Cerrito's story"; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the contract, the Artists agreed to develop an alternate proposal. The Arts and Culture Commission and the Artists held a series of public meetings where the design and placement of the wind sculptures were discussed and the Commission provided direction to the Artists; and

WHEREAS, the Artists presented the completed Design Proposal to the Arts and Culture Commission for their deliberation and action at a public hearing on March 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Artists proposed an "identifying signature" public art piece to enhance and enliven San Pablo Ave and its surroundings composed of twelve (12) abstract wind sculptures installed on streetlight poles along San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, the Arts and Culture Commission, after due consideration, does find and determine the following:

1. The proposed public art project complies with guidelines as adopted by city council resolution or ordinance.

2. The public art project is designed and constructed by a visual art professional.
3. The public art project requires a low level of maintenance, and the applicant has submitted an appropriate maintenance plan.
4. The public art project relates in terms of scale, material, form and content to the immediate surroundings.
5. The public art project is a fixed asset to the property and meets all applicable building code requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arts and Culture Commission hereby approves design proposal for the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project.

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY that this project was approved by the El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission at a regular meeting held on March 22, 2012 upon motion of Commissioner Donovan, second by Commissioner Lupinsky.

AYES: Donovan, Franco, Hawley, Halasz, Lupinsky
NOES: none
ABSTAIN: Rand, Zavala
ABSENT: none

Suzanne Iarla
Staff Liaison, Arts and Culture Commission