



Library & Civic Arts Joint Commission Meeting Minutes

City Council Chambers – 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
October 7, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hertle called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Hertle requested Commissioner Morales lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Library Commissioners Present: Larry Damaser, Joan Nibert, Sanjana Parikh, Fern Skowlund and Chairperson Michaela Hertle.

Library Commissioners Absent: Sonia Rai and Cindi Sabatini.

Civic Arts Commissioners Present: Sandra Jellison, Varsha Nene. Huiling Song, Isabelle Morales and Judy Wheeler

Civic Arts Commissioners Absent: John Casey. Jeanne Farley-Rodgers, Stephanie Wedge-Bonde, and Chairperson Stephanie Pellegrino

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library and Recreation Director; Lia Bushong, Assistant Director of Library and Recreation; Tamara Whitney, Recreation Manager; Nicole Thomas, Recreation Supervisor; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

None.

2. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.

None.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

3. Consider Support for Municipal Code Amendment Allowing Youth Members to Vote on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions

Ms. Thomas advised that at the May 8, 2019 meeting of the Youth Commission a motion was made recommending that City Council amend the Municipal Code to allow youth members of the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote. She provided background information regarding an approved amendment to the Pleasanton Municipal Code supported by City Council at their February 5, 2013 meeting that added one youth non-voting member to the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions on a two-year trial basis. Ms. Thomas noted that these youth members are provided agenda packets and may participate in all activities and meeting discussions but do not serve as a voting member and may not be designated as a commission's representative on other boards or committees.

A motion was made by the Library Commission at their October 4, 2018 meeting recommending that City Council amend the Pleasanton Municipal Code to allow the Library Commission's youth member the ability to vote. This matter was referred to the Youth Commission for research and a recommendation that could be taken to Library, Civic Arts, Parks and Recreation and Human Services Commissions for comments and then to City Council for decision.

The Youth Commission, at their February 13, 2019 meeting, made a motion requesting its Public Policy Subcommittee take this matter under consideration. At their May 8, 2019 meeting, a presentation was made to the Youth Commission by the Subcommittee. Following this presentation, a motion was made recommending City Council allow youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commission the ability to vote.

Ms. Thomas introduced Commissioners Tejas Prakash and Ajay Immadi, members of the Youth Commission, who presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Library and Civic Arts Commissioners.

Commissioners Prakash and Immadi provided information pertaining to:

- Surveys the Subcommittee had conducted with Youth Commissions of other cities and the responses that had been received.
- Notations that none of the cities contacted have youth representatives participating on other commissions.
- Results received from surveys conducted with students on the Pleasanton Youth Commission and other commissions.
- Responses received from a survey conducted with staff members and commissioners from the City of Pleasanton.
- Results received in support of allowing youth members of other commissions the right to vote.
- Negative results obtained that stated youth should not be allowed to vote until they are 18-years of age.
- Graphs showing the survey results that were discussed.
- Several comments received from the surveys both in support of allowing youth members to vote and comments for why they should not be allowed to vote.

Commissioners Prakash and Immadi advised that based on the information the Public Policy Subcommittee had collected and the recommendation that had been made to the Youth Commission, a motion had been made by the Youth Commission recommending to City Council that youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commission to allowed the ability to vote.

Comments and questions received from members of the Library and Civic Arts Commissions included:

- Clarification that no change was being made to quorum voting requirements.
- Support for retaining the voting to those 18-years of age and over.
- Additional information received from surveying of other cities.
- Whether survey responses were received only from Pleasanton students and residents.
- Intelligence of youth and their comments and votes should be counted.
- It being disrespectful to expect youth members to sit on a commission and not be allowed to vote.
- Understanding comments regarding allowing only those 18 and over to vote but commission youth members had to undertake a strong process by the City of Pleasanton to accepted as a Youth Commissioner.
- Youth members of a commission attend meetings and participate in discussions so should be given the ability to vote.
- Youth members have busy school and extracurricular schedules but find time to participate and attend commission meetings.

Chairperson Hertle, together with other commissioners, indicated that she supported the recommendation from the Youth Commission. She stated that she was impressed with the caliber of youth on the commissions and likes that they think differently and have a different perspective on matters. Chairperson Hertle felt that if the goal is to continue to build a great

community, youth have to be involved and youth members on commissions should be allowed to vote. She felt they have great ideas and spend the time and effort to be involved in meetings.

On behalf of the Library Commission a motion was made by Commissioner Skowlund, seconded by Chairperson Hertle, to support the recommendation of the Youth Commission for an amendment to the Municipal Code that would allow youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Damaser, Nibert, Skowlund, and Chairperson Hertle.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Rai and Sabatini
ABSTAIN: None

On behalf of the Civic Arts Commission a motion was made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commissioner Song, to support the recommendation of the Youth Commission for an amendment to the Municipal Code that would allow youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreations Commissions the ability to vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Jellison, Nene, Song, and Wheeler.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Casey, Wedge-Bonde, and Chairperson Pellegrino
ABSTAIN: None

4. Approve Appointment for Teen Poet Laureate Position

Ms. Whitney providing information about the formal process for recruiting and officially appointing Teen Poet Laureates. She advised that the primary role of the City's Teen Poet Laureate is to promote an appreciation for poetry and literary arts in the community throughout the school year through collaboration with the library and civic arts.

Commissioners were advised that past projects of Teen Poet Laureates have included readings on school campuses and at civic events, open mic nights, afterschool pop-up poetry sessions and creative poems set to music in collaboration with the Firehouse High School Music Collaborative.

Ms. Whitney commented on the recruitment process for the 2019/2020 Teen Poet Laureate and the recommendation of the screening committee to appoint Kanchan Naik from Quarry Lane School for the term. She advised that Kanchan is an actively involved Pleasanton teen who volunteers with the Ptown Life News Team and writes articles for the community. Kanchan also recently participated in a Teen Open Mic Night at Inkling's Coffee and a City-partnered event where she read one of her poems.

Commissioner Jellison advised that she had been a member of the screening committee and the decision to choose a Teen Poet Laureate had been difficult because they had been many good candidates, but believe Kanchan was the right choice.

A motion was made by Commissioner Damaser, seconded by Commissioner Skowlund, to approve the appointment of Kanchan Naik as the Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureate representing Quarry Lane School for the school year term of 2019/2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Damaser, Jellison, Nene, Nibert, Skowlund, Song, Wheeler, and Chairperson Hertle.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Casey, Farley-Rodgers, Rai, Sabatini, Wedge-Bonde, and Civic Arts Chairperson Pellegrino.

ABSTAIN: None

5. Consider Postponement of Literary Arts Ambassador Recruitment

Ms. Whitney provided details about the creation of the Literary Arts Ambassador position by City Council in July 2017 and the appointment of Author Meg Fleming to serve as the city's first Literary Arts Ambassador from 2017-2019. She advised that following the close of Ms. Fleming's term, staff began the process of recruitment for a new Literary Arts Ambassador but at this time no applications have been received. The commissions are being asked to approve the postponement of recruiting someone for this position until January 2020.

Commissioner Skowlund was provided details by Ms. Whitney of what the position of Literary Arts Ambassador entails. Ms. Whitney advised that the position requires working with staff on programs about literary arts and needs someone in the position who is passionate about the arts and the position.

Commissioner Nene commented on the application for the position that is posted on the city's website. She felt some of the information being requested could be discouraging to applicants. Ms. Whitney stated that the original intention of the application was to seek someone who had experience and would be self-motivated but agreed that some changes may need to be considered.

Commissioner Skowlund felt applicants may be considering what they can provide and Commissioner Wheeler felt it was important applicants have some experience, otherwise much of the work would need to be done by staff.

Commissioner Nene questioned whether any remuneration could be offered for the position. Ms. Whitney advised that funds are offered to offset expenses for supplies and Ms. Murphy

advised that making this a paid position would need to be a recommendation made by City Council.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the position of Literary Arts Ambassador needs to be position that gets the support of the city so the individual can get information out to the community. Ms. Murphy advised that the city will have a new communications person on board soon who would be able to provide assistance to the Ambassador.

Commissioner Damaser felt it should also fall on the commission to provide ideas to the Ambassador for promoting events.

Chairperson Hertle agreed with the staff recommendation to postpone recruitment of a Literary Arts Ambassador until January 2020 which will also allow the commissions time to further discuss ways to promote this position. Commissioners all agreed with this recommendation.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

6. Calendar of Events

Reviewed.

Ms. Murphy provided information about:

- October 23 Unity Day and work put into this event by the Youth Commission with a focus being on “Bullying”. Commissioners Morales and Parikh commented on events that are promoted at the schools. Ms. Murphy suggested commissioners try to remember to wear something orange to show their support and sharing of the message.
- November 2 is the Hispanic Cultural Celebration at the Firehouse Arts Center.
- November 14 is the Mayor’s Dinner
- December 7 is the Hometown Holiday Event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hertle at 7:54 pm.