



## Civic Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

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### Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA February 1, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson John Casey.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: John Baiocchi, Jeanne Farley-Rodgers, Sandra Jellison, Varsha Nene, Stephanie Pelegrino, Hira Raghavan, Huiling Song, Stephanie Wedge-Bonde, and Chairperson John Casey.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Tamara Whitney, Recreation Manager; Brian Dolan, Assistant City Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

#### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

#### **MINUTES**

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2020

A motion was made by Commissioner Pellegrino, seconded by Commissioner Song, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Civic Arts Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. Approve joint Youth Commission and Civic Arts Commission meeting minutes of November 9, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commissioner Nene, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Joint Youth Commission and Civic Arts Commissioner meeting minutes. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

3. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations.

Ms. Whitney introduced Commissioner Hira Raghavan as the new Civic Arts Commission youth commissioner. Commissioner Raghavan informed commissioners that she was a Junior at Foothill High School and was looking forward to serving on the Civic Arts Commission.

Ms. Whitney reintroduced Commissioner Baiocchi advising that he had joined the commission at the November 9, 2020 meeting.

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

Ms. Whitney advised that a speaker card had been completed by Gary Harrington.

Mr. Harrington informed commissioners that he and his wife were in favor of a cultural art walk and that they have been working on this with both the City Manager and Hacienda Business Park representatives. He noted that responses received from the public on this issue had been positive and they had indicated they would like for it to be in the downtown area, however the Hacienda people would like for it to be in the business park. Mr. Harrington discussed a comment Mr. Fiahlo had made for it to be in the Bernal Park area near a new proposed library but this would need to be included on the ballot and approved at the November 2020 election, however this did not take place. He stated that he and his wife would still like to be involved financially with getting a cultural art walk added in Pleasanton and they didn't believe the cost would be too much.

Chairperson Casey noted that since this was not an item for discussion on the meeting agenda that commissioners were unable to make any comment. Commissioner Song added that this was an item already on the City Council Two-Year Work Plan and would be discussed by commissioners under item 5.

### **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

5. City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process

Mr. Dolan reviewed with commissioners the 2021-2022 City Council Work Plan prioritization process noting that the process typically includes a City Council workshop that allows for short- and long-term objectives for the City to be identified. He noted that the workshop allows for identifying the public's priority projects, individual mayor and councilmember goals, staff

identified projects, projects discussed collectively by City Council, and projects previously approved by City Council. After the workshop the project priorities are adopted by City Council at a later council meeting and the results are incorporated into the City's annual budget and capital improvement plan.

Mr. Dolan reviewed with the commission a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the prioritization process that included information about the Vision Statement, General Plan, and Strategic Objectives. He advised that City Council's current goals and objectives are organized in the following twelve categories:

1. Developing Bernal Community Park
2. Implementing the General Plan
3. Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility
4. Addressing Affordable Housing
5. Implementing Improved Traffic Circulation Measures
6. Fostering Economic Development
7. Strengthening Youth Programs, Services and Activities
8. Assuring a Safe and Secure Community
9. Protecting and Enhancing Pleasanton's Quality of Life, including Downtown
10. Pursuing Environmental Awareness, Health, Land Use and Preservation Issues
11. Operating an Effective and Cost-Efficient Government, and
12. Establishing Integrated Initiatives for Organizational Success

Commissioners were advised that putting projects into the 2-year Work Plan allows City Council and staff to establish and identify projects for budget purposes and asked that the Civic Arts Commission recommend priorities for the civic arts category and identify projects that not already included as a priority.

Mr. Dolan noted that two arts related priorities are currently included in the draft work plan, both of which had been included in the previous plan. These two projects are: 1) Conduct an Amador Theater Facility Assessment, and 2) Add a Culture Art Walk. He noted that a land-use change would be needed for the Culture Art Walk to be placed on the Bernal property and this means having it placed on an election ballot for voters to vote on prior to which a robust education program would need to be conducted.

Commissioner Nene discussed Mr. Harrington's earlier comments on this item needing to be voted on by the community. She would like to see this as project within the city's plan but was not sure that the Bernal property was the best place for it and felt it was something that needed to be discussed further. Commissioner Nene suggested it remain as part of the current plan.

Commissioners Song and Farley Rodgers agreed with Commissioner Nene and thought perhaps it was something that would be better suited for the downtown area. Commissioner Farley Rodger felt it was something people would enjoy now, especially since so many indoor activities were unavailable because of COVID-19.

Commissioner Pellegrino was provided additional details about both the Amador Theater Facility and Culture Art Walk projects. He commented on what is required at the Amador Theater and

what costs would be involved. Commissioner Jellison noted that the commission had voted last year for the Amador Theater Facility Assessment to be a top priority for the Civic Arts Commission. Mr. Dolan discussed complications with the project because of the joint ownership with the Pleasanton Unified School District. Chairperson Casey questioned whether having joint ownership was more of an issue than conducting the assessment and Commissioner Nene commented on the benefits to be gained if the assessment could be conducted while the school has been closed.

Commissioners were informed by Mr. Dolan that funding to conduct the Amador Theater Facility Assessment is estimated to be about \$100K but he was unsure about the timing to conduct it. Commissioner Nene restated that it would be good to complete this while the school is closed.

Ms. Whitney questioned whether the commission should make this a priority project. Mr. Dolan felt that commissioners had expressed support for retaining both the Amador Theater Facility Assessment and Cultural Art Walk projects. He suggested they include in any motion they make changes they have discussed pertaining to the Cultural Art Walk.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nene, seconded by Commissioner Farley Rodgers, to support a proposed Cultural Art Walk project, but remove it from the Civic Center and Library Master Plan proposed location on the Bernal property and consider other locations.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commission Pellegrino, recommending the Amador Theater Facility Assessment and Cultural Art Walk remain as the Civic Arts Commissions priority projects for the City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process with the Amador Theater being their first priority and the Cultural Art Walk as their second priority.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**6. Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Assignments**

Ms. Whitney noted that annually the Civic Arts Commission selects a Chair and Vice Chairperson to facilitate meeting and also reviews committee appointments and makes any necessary changes.

Commissioners discussed the upcoming term expirations of Commissioners Wedge-Bonde and Jellison who will have completed their two-year terms in April 2021. It was also noted that Chairperson Casey and Commissioner Nene will have their first term completed in April 2021 and both advised that they have decided not to renew for a second term.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nene, seconded by Commissioner Farley-Rodgers, to nominate and elect Commissioner Huiling Song to serve as the Civic Arts Commission Chair for March-December 2021.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Farley-Rodgers, Jellison, Nene, Pellegrino, Raghavan, Song, Wedge-Bonde, and Chairperson Casey.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made by Chairperson Casey, seconded by Commissioner Jellison, to nominate and elect Commissioner Stephanie Pellegrino to serve as the Civic Arts Commission Vice Chairperson for March-December 2021.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Farley Rodgers, Jellison, Nene, Pellegrino, Raghavan, Song, Wedge-Bonde, and Chairperson Casey.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Commissioners discussed committees and the following member assignments were made:

PASS Subcommittee - Commissioner Farley-Rodgers and Commissioner Song.  
(Meetings held on Fridays at noon)

Teen Poet Laureate - Commissioner Pellegrino  
(A one-time meeting to be held)

Ms. Whitney advised the next IGNITE event will take place in 2022 and committee members will need to be selected next year.

**MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION**

- a) Ms. Whitney provided details about the grant meeting scheduled for March 2021 and advised that commissioners should review the applications and complete the Zoomgrant program by February 17, 2021. She also provided information about how the Centennial Towers repair project is moving forward.

- b) Commissioner Jellison had questions about the grant funding amount available for distribution.
- c) Commissioner Wedge-Bonde discussed with Ms. Whitney the proposed date for the installation of the Eventide art piece at the Adobe. Commissioner Jellison asked that commissioners retiring from the commission be notified of this date.
- d) Ms. Whitney asked what the protocol was for celebrating and thanking commissioners who were leaving the commission. The possibility of a future get-together was discussed.
- e) Commissioners asked about projects that were unable to be completed in 2020 because of COVID-19. Ms. Whitney will provide an update for the next meeting.
- f) Commissioner Farley-Rodgers questioned if applicants would be able available to present and answer questions from commissioners at the March grant meeting. Ms. Whitney provided information about the process for the agencies to attend the meeting and present.
- g) Commissioner Wedge-Bonde asked about an earlier start date for the March meeting. Commissioner discussed and it was agreed that the March meeting start date should be 6:30 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.