



Civic Arts Commission and Library Commission Joint Special Meeting Minutes

**Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA
May 2, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Rai.

Chairperson Rai provided details about Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconference due to COVID-19 as proclaimed by Governor Newsom on March 3, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Library Commissioners Present:

Pam Cosby, Joanne Hall, Michaela Hertle, Wendy Kimsey, Sharon Murphy, Pranesh Ragu, Cindi Sabatini, and Chairperson Rai.

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Civic Arts Commissioners Present:

John Biaocchi, Katie Brunner, Janice Coleman-Knight, Jeanne Farley-Rodgers, Anne Giancola, and Jamie Yee.

Commissioners Absent:

Hira Raghavan

Staff Present:

Heidi Murphy, Library and Recreation Director; Lia Bushong, Assistant Library and Recreation Director; Rachel Prater, Recreation

Manager; Katie Delang, Librarian; Ania Pawlak, Office Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Ms. Prater advised that item 2 on the agenda should be changed to show that the commission should make a recommendation to City Council that they approve the appointment of Tho Nguyen as the Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureate for the 2022-2023 school year.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

a. Commission and Staff Introductions

Ms. Murphy suggested that since this was the first joint meeting of the Library and Civic Arts Commissions that a few minutes be taken for staff and commissioners to introduce themselves and provide a little information about their duties or the time they have served as members of a commission.

b. Outgoing Teen Poet Laureate Presentation

Ms. Delang introduced Nikita Jayaprakash and asked her to provide highlights from the past year on her term serving as Teen Poet Laureate for 2021-2022.

Ms. Jayaprakash advised that as Teen Poet Laureate she has completed a series of workshops with elementary school children. By the end of the workshop, the children had compiled an anthology that was made available in the library and at their respective school libraries. Workshops included Inspiration Workshops between middle school students and senior citizens and a Valentine's Day Workshop. Later in the year, a successful Epiphany Poetry contest event was held in which middle school students submitted their poetry and presented pieces at a Firehouse Arts Center event. A total of thirty-three poems were submitted and fifteen students presented their poems at the event.

Ms. Jayaprakash advised that during the year she has interacted with Poet Laureates from other cities, having participated in an Earth Day open mic program, National Poetry month activities, and at a planned June open mic event at Towne Center Books. She will also be providing a poetry booth at the Pleasanton Senior Center for Grandparents Day.

Additionally, Ms. Jayaprakash indicated that she will be reciting poetry at the AAPI Celebration event and will be a keynote speaker for a Writers Award Ceremony. Ms. Delang thanked Ms. Jayaprakash for serving as the City of Pleasanton's Teen Poet Laureate for 2021-2022 and the wonderful programs she was able to put in place.

Ms. Delang advised that as this school year comes to an end, she was happy to present Tho Nguyen as a candidate for Teen Poet Laureate for the 2022-2023 school year, as recommended by the Teen Poet Laureate Selection Committee that comprised of members from both the Library and Civic Arts Commissions. She shared that the Selection Commission was impressed with the innovative and inclusive program ideas of Ms. Nguyen and her active involvement in a number of school clubs.

Ms. Delang introduced Ms. Nguyen to commissioners and asked her to recite the poem she had presented to the Selection Committee. Ms. Nguyen advised that her poem was inspired by a band composition. Following is the poem she recited:

Stage right opens on chaos dissonance sinking its fangs into the stage the
way water here's rocks to dust corral have burned scars morning what comes
after grief.

The conductor lifts his baton and we shut her beat after beat after beat
nothing, but wretched beautiful sound silence dilutes anger peels back the
layers until you have mirage you bleeding exit ruined

You ragged knife away at the loneliness and watch it come back to you, and
why and better days memories me and tender cherry blossom petals swept away
on the wind.

Your fonder of the things that linger just out of reach the piano glitters
and clicks like a silver toy box train sets and cars, following the pats
you lay down for them.

It's a wonderful feeling knowing where the sidewalk ends, it opens on a
darn bright aboard high and clear you bird sunrise for the lilies to bloom.

Your Renaissance fading light into the LIFE it once was. My heart over
jumped in a delirium of love and Ecstasy the way a mother will turn newborn
stairs out from the hospital window utilizing date gaze at the same world
now share blue skies and vendor clouds, no matter which one booze on
horizon.

Blue and saxophone breathe as one waiting for the summer days to shine
again your seventh chord the last array of gold land on the water I tuck it
into my throat until that fades with the last of the baton.

The end swells into silence, and this is the only thing that stays.

Ms. Delang thanked Ms. Nguyen for a beautiful poem. She then asked commissioners to make a recommendation to City Council they approve the appointment of Tho Nguyen as Teen Poet Laureate for the 2022-2023 school year.

Commissioner Kimsey thanked Ms. Nguyen for the poem and felt she was going to do a great job as the next Teen Poet Laureate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Chairperson Rai, recommending that the City Council approve the appointment of Tho Nguyen as the Pleasanton Teen Poet Laureate for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Library Commission:

AYES: Commissioners Cosby, Hall, Hertle, Kimsey, Murphy, Ragu, Sabatini, and Chairperson Rai

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Civic Arts Commission:

AYES: Commissioners Biaocchi, Brunner, Coleman-Knight, Farley-Rodgers, and Yee.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Raghaven

ABSTAIN: None

Ms. Murphy thanked Nikita Jayaprakash for all her hard work as Teen Poet Laureate during the past year and indicated, noting that the work she has produced and lives she has touched has been incredible. She then indicated staff was now looking forward to working with Tho Nguyen.

Chairperson Rai noted that she had met Ms. Jayaprakash during the interview process for the 2021-2022 Teen Poet Laureate and has followed her through the year-long journey. She also indicated she had met Ms. Nguyen during the interview call and was now looking forward to being able to meet and follow her throughout the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Civic Arts Commission	June 6, 2022
Library Commission	June 9, 2022