



Civic Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA March 1, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Huiling Song.

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, Hira Raghavan, Huiling Song, Stephanie Wedge-Bonde (7:55pm), and Chairperson John Casey.

Commissioners Absent: Stephanie Pellegrino

Staff Present: Tamara Whitney, Recreation Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of February 1, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Nene, seconded by Commissioner Farley-Rodgers, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Civic Arts Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations.

Ms. Whitney advised that staff would like to recognize outgoing commissioners Casey, Nene, Jellison and Wedge-Bonde for their service to the commission especially during the past difficult year. She advised that she was bringing this item up at this meeting because staff was unsure whether the Civic Arts Commission would be holding a meeting in April which is when the terms for these commissioners would be completed.

Commissioner Nene stated that it has been a pleasure working with staff and commissioners on the Civic Arts Commission and learning how democracy works. Commissioner Casey also thanked staff and members of the commission stating he has enjoyed working on the commission for the past four years.

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

Jack Balch indicated he was attending the meeting under his own recognizance and not as a member of City Council. He thanked commissioners for their service on the commission and stated that as a resident of Pleasanton he wanted to share some observations he has made about other cities having contests to enhance areas with art and would like to suggest the commission consider some type of contest be considered by the commission for Pleasanton to help enhance city when Zoom meetings are being held.

Chairperson Song thanked Mr. Balch for his recommendation.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review and Recommend Community Grant Funds in the Civic Arts Category for Fiscal

Ms. Whitney reviewed with commissioners the funding application process for community-based organizations providing cultural arts programs that promote the City of Pleasanton. She noted that the last time the commission was able to do this was in Council Chambers in 2020, but now because of the pandemic it was necessary to complete the process via Zoom.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Whitney that a total of eight applications had been received from five organizations and representatives from the organizations are prepared to provide information about their applications to the commission. She also noted that a total of \$45,957.78 is available for allocation in the Civic Arts category of the Community Grant Program.

Chairperson Song opened the meeting for agency presentations advising representatives they should keep to the 3-minute deadline.

Amador/Livermore Valley HS-Museum on Main - (An Afternoon/Evening With..), Ed Kinney/Jim DeMersman – Mr. DeMersman thanked the commission for their past support indicating it has helped the organization keep ticket prices affordable and enabled them to find the best talent to do programs. He noted that the program had started as a lecture series for “An Evening With..” but with sold-out tickets matinees were added. Commissioners were advised that the program is unique, not available at any other museum, and assists with the city’s cultural plan by outlining diversity from different origins and ethnicities.

Mr. DeMersman informed the commission that because of the COVID pandemic that program had to be closed and is now being shown virtually with most speakers being able to accommodate this format.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. DeMersman that the agency would be able to continue the program with the recommended funding amount of \$7,286.00.

Commissioner Nene questioned whether the remote format of showing the program would continue after they were able to open for in-person events. Mr. DeMersman indicated that staff was discussing this and may select certain segments that will help expand the program. Chairperson Song agreed with Commissioner Nene that continuing the remote format could be beneficial.

Livermore Valley Opera - (LVO Student Outreach), Jim Schmidt – advised that the grant they have requested is for the next fall when hopefully places will be open. He provided information on what they have been doing during the past year and their hopes that during the coming year they will be able to again visit schools to do assemblies and provide lessons to students. Mr. Schmidt commented on how he personally was introduced to classical music which led to him developing the program. He advised that during the past year Livermore Valley Opera posted 20 operas on YouTube and had received a lot of compliments. He thanked the commission for their support noting the Opera does not have excess funds so whatever they receive from the grant is appreciated.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra – (Clinics for middle and high school music students / Discover Music Elementary In-School Assembly Program / Pacific Chamber Orchestra Matinee Concert), Lawrence Kohl – thanked the city for their many years of support that has helped allow them to serve the community for the past 20+ years. Mr. Kohl provided information about the clinics and assemblies they provide stating that they hoped to do two of them this year one in the spring and one in the fall, also their two matinee programs complement each other by teaching music fundamentals.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Kohl that additional funds would allow the Orchestra to do more clinics and assembly programs.

Commissioner Farley-Rodgers questioned if the Orchestra was able to reach all of the Pleasanton elementary schools and Mr. Kohl advised that the funds allowed them to do two programs at two schools.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band – (Emerging from 2020: Marketing & Participant Safety), Les Duman – thanked the commission for their support and stated that he liked the idea from Commissioner Nene of maintaining virtual programs after the COVID pandemic. He advised that the Pleasanton Community Concert Band is made up of community musicians who play for the community at all city events and three concerts at the Bankhead Theater all for free. Mr. Duman noted that the band had not been able to play for the past year and are anxious to start playing again.

Commissioners were advised that funds recommended will enable them to do a reorganization of their music library and improve how they can reach the community while working through COVID.

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council – (Marketing & Community Outreach in a COVID & Post COVID World / Rebuilding Community Through Art), Kelly Cousins and Les Duman – thanked the commission for their support and advised that PCAC had submitted their grants after discussing the toll that the COVID pandemic has had on the community and how there was a need to increase community cohesiveness. Ms. Cousins noted that when the mural concept was brought forward PCAC thought it would be a great way to bring the community together through the arts and during these challenging times. Commissioners were advised that it will take several steps to determine where the mural should be located, including the possibility of it being placed at the Cultural Arts Building.

Information about other mural projects in the city were discussed and Ms. Cousins advised that PCAC wants to provide information to the community about where they are. She advised that a professional artist will be sought, and it is hoped it will be a regional artist who make the mural diverse and help bring the community together.

Commissioner Nene liked the idea of the mural and felt the location would be important. Chairperson Song agreed and asked about the Cultural Arts Building location. She also suggested information be provided to local high schools because of their students are artistically talented.

Mr. Duman provided information about the Marketing & Community Outreach application advising that because of the COVID pandemic PCAC is looking to do things virtually and it will be something that will carry over in the future to other things. He advised they are reaching out to the community to let them know what PCAC does and allows them to for work with other organizations and art groups in the city. Mr. Duman advised that they are looking to have marketing materials done by professional artists and hope they will be able to work with the city in getting more art into the community.

Commissioner Nene suggested PCAC consider linking everything to the city website and Chairperson Song indicated that she agreed.

Chairperson Song closed the meeting for agency presentations at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioners reviewed the funding recommendations in the staff report and agreed that the \$1,630.78 amount still available to be allocated should be added to the Pacific Chamber

Orchestra (Discover Music Elementary In-School Assembly Program) amount, changing that funding recommendation from \$4,652.00 to \$6,282.78.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commissioner Casey, recommending the amount of \$45,957.78 available to be allocated in the FY 2021/22 Operating Budget for the Civic Arts category of the Community Grant Program be allocated as follows:

\$ 7,286.00	Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society (An Afternoon & Evening With...)
\$ 6,870.00	Livermore Valley Opera (LVO Student Outreach Program 21/22)
\$ 1,636.00	Pacific Chamber Orchestra (Clinics for middle and high school music students)
\$ 6,282.78	Pacific Chamber Orchestra (Discover Music Elem. In-School Assemblies)
\$ 6,537.00	Pacific Chamber Orchestra (Orchestra Matinee Concert)
\$ 6,663.00	Pleasanton Community Concert Band (Emerging from 2022: Marketing & Safety)
\$ 4,494.00	Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (Marketing & Community Outreach)
<u>\$ 6,189.00</u>	Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (Rebuilding Community Through Art)

\$45,957.78 TOTAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Baiocchi, Casey, Farley-Rodgers, Jellison, Nene, Raghavan, and Chairperson Song.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Pellegrino and Wedge-Bonde.

ABSTAIN: None

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION

5. Civic Arts Project Status Report

Ms. Whitney reviewed with commissioners the March 2021 Civic Arts Project Status Report noting that:

- a. Staff is currently searching for a large boulder on which to place the Eventide art piece and hopes to soon have a date for installation of this art work.
- b. Additional information on the project Paint Box will be provided at the next commission meeting
- c. Staff is working on recruitment of Teen Poet Laureates, and
- d. Staff hopes to be able to bring back the San Francisco Shakespeare in the Park program later in the year.

Commissioner Jellison requested that staff notify those commissioners leaving the commission when the Eventide art piece is to be installed. Ms. Whitney advised that staff is still working on arrangements for having the piece shipped but will notify retired commissioners of its installation.

Commissioner Casey stated he would like to be provided a staff report on what the city's plans will look like for reopening and restarting programs after COVID. Ms. Whitney advised that staff

is currently working on this internally and noted that the city is being conservative and not yet providing information on how to open things such as galleries, theaters, etc.

Commissioner Casey indicated he has been hearing how large buildings are going to open and Ms. Whitney commented on a recent *New York Times* article and how theaters have opened in Australia and London. She indicated she would add notes for the next meeting.

Chairperson Song asked about the possibility of the city providing a map on the painted utility boxes. Ms. Whitney agreed this was a good suggestion.

6. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department COVID Response Report for July-December 2020.

Ms. Whitney reviewed with commissioners the July-December 2020 COVID Response Report which covered: 1) essential services such as transportation, Meals on Wheels, Lunches for Seniors, and friendly phone calls; 2) virtual and in-person programs; and 3) contract classes. She commented on what a tough year this has been for everyone and how staff has been trying to work through things.

Chairperson Song thanked staff for the report and commended staff on doing such a good job through such difficult times.

Commissioner Nene commented on programs that have been introduced because of COVID and felt staff should consider whether any of these programs should continue once things open up. Ms. Whitney indicated this is a conversation that staff has been having.

Commissioner Baiocchi noted that he has been using of the library programs during COVID and Commissioners Farley-Rodgers and Jellison discussed the library opening later in March for limited hours.

Ms. Whitney noted that staff is currently working on a hybrid schedule and commented on steps being taken to open the library that will allow a maximum of 20 people at a time to enter.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.