



Civic Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA April 5, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: John Casey, Sandra Jellison, Varsha Nene, Hira Raghavan, Huling Song, and Chairperson John Casey.

Commissioners Absent: John Baiocchi, Jeanne Farley-Rodgers, Stephanie Pellegrino, and Stephanie Wedge-Bonde.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of March 1, 2021.

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

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations.

None.

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

None.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review and Recommend Community the Temporary Installation and Locations Public Art Wayfinding Signposts

Ms. Whitney noted that on March 2, 2020 the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) was provided a Civic Arts Commission grant for marketing, publicity, and membership in the amount of \$3,265. Since then, PCAC reached out to City staff with a proposal for two public art wayfinder signposts. She noted that such signposts, functioning as artistic and attractive directional signs that incorporate elements of poetry and visual art, have been used in the City of Livermore, guiding visitors to public art in the downtown area.

Commissioners were advised that the Public Art Selection Subcommittee (PASS) met virtually on March 19, 2021 to discuss PCAC's proposal and recommended the signposts for locations in the downtown area for directing walking traffic to some of the City's public art pieces. PASS also discussed locations for the two signposts and recommended installation to be outside the Museum on Main and adjacent to the Wheels bus stop on Neal Street across from Meadowlark Dairy.

Ms. Whitney advised that the city is planning to expand the public art program during the summer by providing information on the website and the installation of the two signposts will add to this and help people in locating public art pieces.

Additionally, Ms. Whitney provided information about the proposed installation of these two temporary signposts. Commissioner Jellison confirmed that pads for the signposts will be sunk into the ground to avoid tripping and that the posts will be left standing during the summer and unable to be taken out and stolen. Ms. Whitney commented on how the signposts had been installed in Livermore without any problems occurring.

Commissioner Casey indicated he had similar concerns to those of Commissioner Jellison and wondered about the strength of the mountings. He also had questions on how the installation locations had been determined. Ms. Whitney advised that staff concerns regarding mowing, watering and safety issue in the area had been taken into consideration when discussing suitable locations.

Chairperson Song stated that she was in favor of the locations selected especially the Museum site which is close to the Pleasanton overhead street sign.

Commissioner Nene also agreed with the chosen locations but expressed her concern with funding for something that was going to be temporary and thought the signposts should be left installed for as long as possible. Ms. Whitney discussed the current downtown moratorium on permanent art pieces but felt the signposts while whimsy and different will be good for foot traffic.

Commissioner Raghavan supported the chosen locations and asked about the signposts only being installed for the summer.

Chairperson Song opened the meeting for public comment at 7:20 p.m.

Ann Giancola from PCAC indicated she had designed the signposts recently installed in Livermore and was available to answer any questions the commission may have. She noted that the Pleasanton signposts will be designed as way-finding posts with an artistic feel and several Pleasanton artists will be working on the project.

Chairperson Song was advised by Ms. Giancola that once the Livermore signposts were removed, they were placed for viewing in one of the Boswell store windows. It was also noted that the plywood signposts had been screwed into the footing and no problems had occurred.

Kelly Cousins also from PCAC thanked the commission for considering this project and advised that grant funds received were being used for this project. She thanked staff and members of the PASS committee for working with PCAC on placement of the signposts. Ms. Cousins felt the signposts would be a great help with the reopening of the downtown area and that the Harrington Book, available at the library, provides information about the location of public art pieces in the area, but the signposts will cover the location of major pieces.

Ms. Cousins thanked the commission for considering this project and looks forward to the reopening and reinvigoration of the community, especially the art pieces.

Commissioner Nene questioned if a QR Code for the signposts was going to be available on the city's website.

Commissioner Casey stated he was pleased with the selected locations for the signposts but was concerned about security.

Commissioner Jellison felt one of the signpost locations should be on East Angela near the Farmers Market. Ms. Whitney advised that a suitable location that would be compliant with ADA requirements could not be found in that area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commissioner Casey, recommending the installation of the wayfinder posts at the Museum on Main and on Neal Street.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

5. Review and Discuss Teen Poet Laureate Application

Ms. Whitney provided information about the Teen Poet Laureate program that aims to promote an appreciation of poetry and literary arts in the community throughout the school year. She noted that the program was paused for the 2020/2021 school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, then in February 2021 the Civic Arts Commission indicated their interest in having the program resume.

Commissioners were informed that no remuneration is received by the Teen Poet Laureate, but expenses related to the program of the Teen Poet Laureate are covered in an amount not to exceed \$2,000. Ms. Whitney noted that the Teen Poet Laureate position is open for Junior and Senior students to apply and is being overseen by City of Pleasanton Librarian Katie Delang. Recruitment for this position will take place in April 2021 through print and social media with interviews scheduled for May 2021.

Chairperson Song questioned if the School District has received notification about this and Commissioner Nene wondered why the program was not open for Freshman and Sophomore students. Ms. Whitney advised that the School District is aware of the program and that staff believes the program is more conducive to older students.

6. Review and Discuss City Zoom Photography Contest

Ms. Whitney noted that at the last Civic Arts Commission meeting Jack Balch had proposed the commission consider a photo contest featuring popular Pleasanton landmarks that could be used as virtual backgrounds for Zoom and other similar meetings. It was noted by Mr. Balch that other cities in the Tri-Valley have created city-specific backgrounds that are being shared.

Ms. Whitney noted that with several commissioners leaving the commission that this may be a project to be further considered when new commissioners have been installed.

Commissioners Jellison and Casey noted that they were both supportive of the idea but since they will be leaving the commission agreed a decision on moving forward should be delayed until new commissioners have had an opportunity to consider. Commissioner Casey felt it would be important to consider criteria requirements and themes as well as outreach to the community and school art students.

Commissioner Nene also liked the concept but felt the commission would need to determine how many concepts were needed and the public should be involved in voting.

Commissioner Raghavan liked the idea of a photography contest and questioned how marketing of the concept would be undertaken. Ms. Whitney suggested the commission could consider forming a subcommittee that would bring criteria ideas to the commission for consideration and the commission would determine how voting should take place.

Chairperson Song suggested outgoing commissioners spread information about the concept.

7. Civic Arts Project Status Report

Ms. Whitney reviewed with commissioners the April 2021 Civic Arts Project Status Update commenting on the following:

Eventide

Ms. Whitney advised that the statue is in the process of being shipped and staff will advise commissioners when the installation is scheduled.

Paintbox Project

Will be budgeted as a project for the next year. Current paintboxes will be reviewed to determine whether they should be updated or replaced.

Commissioner Nene indicated she would like to see more utility boxes painted around town if the budget allows. Commissioner Jellison agreed and noted that the City of Dublin is appointing artists for a similar project. Commissioner Casey suggested contacting artists to determine if they might be willing to repaint or repurpose utility boxes they had painted. Staff should also check to determine if they are still under contract. Ms. Whitney felt some care of utility boxes was being undertaken by the city's conservator but liked the idea of reaching out to the artists.

Chairperson Song felt it would be interesting to have some of the artists come to commission meetings to talk about their pieces.

Community Grants

Ms. Whitney advised that mid-term reports will be presented at the May meeting.

Theater Contracts / Performers

Ms. Whitney stated that this is being reevaluated.

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

Commissioners were advised that changes to COVID-19 healthcare regulations now allows for outdoor performances.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Next Meeting: Special Joint Meeting with Library Commission
May 24, 2021