



HERITAGE AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

CITY OF DUBLIN

November 10, 2016

The November 10, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Dublin Civic Center, Dublin, California, by Chair Blackburn.

Commissioners (Cm.) Present: Blackburn, Minniear, Tutino, He, Iharosi, Deets
Commissioners Absent: Tutino

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Blackburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Cm. Iharosi, seconded by Cm. Minniear, and by a vote of 5-0-2 with Cm. Szollos and Cm. Deets absent, the Commission took the following action:

ACTION:

Approved minutes of the October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting, as presented.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Cultural Arts Needs Assessment

Ms. Tegan McLane, Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager, presented the specifics of the item as outline in the Staff Report along with a power point presentation.

Cm. Deets arrived at 7:05 PM

Cm. Deets questioned where affordable housing would fit into that Household Income section of the survey. Ms. McLane explained they would fit into the lower household income bracket, \$50,000-\$75,000.

Cm. Minniear questioned how we made the connection regarding the inclusion of residents at events. Ms. McLane explained part came from comments and part from the numbers in the survey, when people said they did not feel inclusive we asked questions on the survey that would back up the answers why they do not feel represented.

Chair Blackburn questioned what people meant when they asked about having more professional performances. Ms. McLane explained the question did not specify the type of performer/performance.

Cm. Minniear questioned when looking at the percentages, what is the actual number of people responding to make up the percentages. Ms. McLane explained that in the Visual Arts Instruction section 585 people out of 705 people responded to the survey. Ms. McLane only had percentages with her for presentation, but will provide actual numbers later to those who wanted them.

Chair Blackburn asked about whether or not the new amphitheater will have a power source? Mr. Jim Rodems, Director of Parks & Community Services answered that there will power to the amphitheater. He also explained that there will be a need for a cover to the space and that the city will be able to bring power to the covered area of the amphitheater. This is currently being worked on, it is however dependent on costs not running over on the new Emerald Glen Recreation and Aquatics Center.

Cm. Tutino asked how we reached out to the young adults (19-34) for the survey. Ms. McLane explained that postcards were mail, we advertised in newspapers and through social media. We did not target them any differently than the other age groups. Cm. Tutino asked about teenagers (high school age) Ms. McLane explained they held round table discussions with the high school and also reach out to the Youth Advisory Commission to help reach that community for the round table discussions. Cm. Tutino asked where their responses are incorporated into the survey. Ms. McLane explained that they are not included as a particular section but they are taken into account at the summary section.

Cm. Deets questioned recommendations item #2, did the survey takers give us what they had in mind in working with community partnerships? Ms. McLane explained the consultant is using best practices examples from other cities; we as a city do not have the expertise in all of the various cultures. What has worked best in other cities is to work with specific cultural communities and artists who specialize in specific cultural areas and invite them to participate.

Cm. Tutino asked with regards to working with the schools is there going to be someone specifically who will be working on this within the City? Ms. McLane explained at this moment there are no plans to hire additional staff to do this, however we do have staff in the Heritage and Cultural Arts unit who with recommendation from City Council some individuals current responsibilities could shift a bit to accommodate this. We are also looking at partnerships with other organizations.

Chair Blackburn asked about the converting of the police services wing what is the cost? Ms. McLane explained the current cost is estimated at 5.6 million.

Cm. Minniear asked for clarification of the 5.6 million is that for just the lower level of building or both the lower an upper level. Ms. McLane explained it would be for the lower level for the Cultural Arts Center.

Chair Blackburn asked for clarification on the local arts study and thoughts on local arts participations. Ms. McLane explained we were happy with the response; we are working on building relations with other arts organizations. There are not many here in Dublin but there many in neighboring communities

that serve Dublin residents. We have the cultural arts data base and we are encouraging those organizations to join.

Public Comment by:

Mr. Richard Guarienti Dublin resident, participated in the survey and round tables, appreciates the full study. He has the following recommendations. I would like the commission to consider adding something in to the recommendations regarding communications. Would like for City to work on communicating to people about what we already have, i.e. map of where art is located already exists in the Activity Guide. Would like to see a new brochure and an update of art locations created. Reference a past activity for student's participating in a treasure hunt for art in the City. He suggests creating something like the Pokemon game; make finding our art a game. Get the schools involved in visiting local art. One more suggestion is maintenance of our art work.

Ms. Anita Carr – Alameda County Arts Commissioner and Dublin resident, participated in the survey. I am a Pokemon player; most of the art locations in Dublin also have Pokemon stops. Would like to make a recommendation that the City work with the Alameda County Arts Commission, they have very strong ties with the school districts. Ms. Carr encourages everyone to attend the ACAC meetings.

Ms. Tara Bhuthimethee – Parks & Community Commission member, attending as a resident. Also wants to see an update to the Cultural Arts Master Plan. Also agrees with suggestion of maintenance of art work. Maintenance of art work reflects volumes to how a community values their art. Personal interest is viewing art in the public realm especially in pedestrian areas, specifically in the downtown area. Has suggestion to find a way to help the public interpret art. Also had a suggestion for the amphitheater is to have a series of events, i.e. opera, Shakespeare etc.

Ms. Kit Lau Dublin resident – I strongly agree with the other suggestions regarding communications. Would like to suggest maximizing the use of the new amphitheater and asked where the amphitheater is located. The Master Plans updates are they public or are they only available to staff office?

Ms. McLane answered questions; amphitheater is located at Emerald Glen Park. With regard to the Master Plan's being on the web site, not sure about that but will look into it. With regard to public art maintenance City Council did approve money in this fiscal year's budget and work has already begun at some locations.

Cm. Iharosi commented that the fountain at Shannon is not working again. Ms. McLane will look into that.

Cm. Tutino asked for clarification on art maintenance with regard to adding the suggestion to the recommendations. Ms. McLane explained that it is already in this year's City budget.

Cm. Minniear asked for clarification on maintenance of historical markers asking if they are included in the plan. Ms. McLane explained that yes they are included on the public art list for maintenance.

Chair Blackburn asked about how to apply the different principles that have arisen during the discussion to the commission's recommendations, specifically regarding communication and partnerships. Looking at the principles as an important part of how we make these recommendations rather than making specific recommendations themselves.

Cm. Minniear would like to point out that updating the Cultural Arts and Public Art Master Plan's is really a key part in this process. We had these plans in the past and if he remembered correctly, communication, the rolls and responsibilities, engaging the public, the private parts, figuring out who does what part, these rolls are all laid out in the Master Plans. Unfortunately one of the major groups that played a role in 2000 - 2006 no longer exists and that's the Dublin Fine Art Foundation.

Cm. Iharosi would like to suggest that some of the classes that the city offers be more specifically for parent and child focused and that they be offered on the weekends, because more often both parents work now.

Cm. He suggested communicating what we are doing as a city at other City sponsored events that are being held. He would like to see more variety in music events offered.

Ms. McLane explained we do have a fixed budget for our presentations most of our current budget is in special events we have a little set aside this year for Dublin High School and the new amphitheater. But what the programming is never specified in those budgets so that would be something that would come through a Cultural Arts Master Plan. The other idea is to partner with other groups; we have the Arts Space Grant Program piloted it is our hope that it will continue in the future.

Chair Blackburn would like to see us be able to start and support a group much like the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation to create a community and citizen volunteerism. Ms. McLane explained that these types of organizations are not set up by Cities they are more created by the public wanting to set them up. Chair Blackburn thinks the City needs to play a stronger role in bringing the community along with us. Maybe we create a citizens advisory group that helps in creating of the new Master Plans. Does not feel the city needs to managed or pay for such a group but does feel that if we are to have such robust action plan in arts it would need an advisory group of some kind.

Cm. Minniear suggests finding a creative way to get people to come and visit. This needs to be a public and private partnership. Not just build and create new facilities and hope that people come and visit.

Mr. Rodems agrees with Cm. Minniear in that this needs to be a planned and sustainable growth issue. To speak to Ms. McLane's comment about programing, it needs to start by looking at our programing. To address the Public Arts Master Plan and the Cultural Arts Master Plan both are to be done in the next year. Ms. McLane is also correct that City Council is taking a very strong stance that we maintain our public art, and we also get people connected to in the art in our community. These are priorities for us. The reality of this department is to develop a well-rounded Parks Department. There is a need to adjust how and what we are providing for our community, i.e. more weekend classes for working parents.

Cm. Minniear question for Ms. McLane in the planning of more art instruction and art performance have we reached out to the community college? Ms. McLane answers that not to her knowledge but that is a great suggestion.

Cm. Tutino, Cm. Minniear and Chair Blackburn suggest making a 6th recommendation to City Council regarding public, private partnerships, a focus on community engagement, and communication.

Mr. Guarietti added a comment that the on the Parks Master Plan with regards to the Bicycle and Pedestrian plans they use to have two meetings per year to look at plan to review the progress.

Ms. Carr adds a comment that when she was part of the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission they would work with the Cultural Arts Master Plan on a regular basis.

Cm. Minniear has a wording recommendation “Develop a method and process to promote coordinate and communicate a public, private and community partnership to improve arts for Dublin”.

Chair Blackburn would like input from staff. Would like to see an additional recommendation as; strengthening and formalized community engagement in the cultural arts.

Mr. Rodems added, during conversations with City staff in looking at this report and reading recommendations, the question they ask is “what does that mean?” The clarity of the suggestion, the reality of communication is how is it being viewed in terms of our offerings, how are we advertising, how are we positioning it on the website, what is it as a component of the philosophy and priority of the department is more important when we talk about communication. How we communicate will be engrained in the Master Plans.

Cm. Deets suggest the support of a symposium from other arts people in community.

Ms. McLane offered to work on the wording before it goes to council.

On a motion by Chairperson Blackburn, and seconded by Cm. He, and by a vote of 5-0-1, with Cm. Szollos absent, the Commission took the following action:

ACTION:

The Commission received the Report and made the following recommendation to City Council. To receive the Cultural Arts Needs Assessment with the addition to Recommendations Summarized #6 strengthening and formalize community engagement in the cultural arts community.

8.2 Summer 2016 Quarterly Report

Ms. Tegan McLane, Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager, presented the specifics of the item as outlined in the Staff Report.

Cm. Minniear asked how the City hosted campouts relate to the cultural arts. Ms. McLane answered they are offered by the Special Events Team and they are part of the cultural arts and heritage team so all of the events that we offer are included in the report.

ACTION:

The Commission received the Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Brief Information Only Reports from Heritage & Cultural Arts Commissioners and/or Staff

Cm. He – None

Cm. Iharosi – The fountain at Shannon Park is not working again. Recommend improvements to the City's data base for volunteers specifically regarding the finger printing process. She will not be applying for a second term with HCAC. Wanted to say it was an honor to serve and she enjoyed it. She encourages the City to continue with the Inside Dublin program and the Dublin 101 program.

Cm. Tutino – First welcomed Mr. Rodems. Shared concerns with parking at the Heritage Center with the new construction. The final touches going onto the murals at the Heritage Center. Is on the Visual Art Program committee with the Dublin Unified School District and they are working on an arts needs assessment for the schools. Spoke with Elizabeth Isles about a Heritage education program or a westward expansion education for 5th graders. Added a shout out to Anita Carr for making sure we had representation regarding public art selection that will be located at the new county court house in Dublin. The city symbol will be in the center of some of the art.

Chairperson Blackburn recognized the commissioners whose terms on the commission are ending. She presented Cm. Deets, Cm. Iharosi, Cm. Tutino and Cm. Minniear with plaques to thank them for their service.

Cm. Minniear attended the Hometown Hero Event today; the Senior Center Staff and Rotary Club did an exceptional job. Thanked the staff for putting up the Camp Parks historic pictures. Thank you for filling the Emerald Glen pool. Mention that Ms. McLane and staff are working with DUSD on the 150th anniversary of the Murray School District.

Cm. Deets said he has enjoyed watching the commission grow over the years. He has enjoyed sharing the parks with visitors as well as learning from them.

Ms. McLane provided program, project, and event updates.

Cm. Minniear – complimented Ms. McLane and her staff on the wonderful job with the conference with the California Historical Societies.

9.2 Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Ms. McLane provided an overview of upcoming agenda items for the Commission.

Discuss regarding who can be at the December HCAC meeting, Chairperson Blackburn and Cm. Szollos will not be able to attend. Ms. McLane will confirm that Cm. Szollos will not be in attendance. Cm. Tutino will Chair the December 2016 meeting.

Cm. Minniear is suggesting an update to the Heritage Master Plan and suggested to create a History Master Plan. Recommend the commission to create historical retention criteria.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Finn, Recording Secretary.

Kathy Blackburn
Chairperson

ATTEST: _____

Tegan McLane
Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager