



**MINUTES
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2008**

7 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

The Sunnyvale Arts Commission met in regular session on August 20, 2008, in City Hall Council Chambers, 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA at 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Obrey called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Robert Obrey
Vice Chair Tara Martin-Milius
Commissioner Dixie Carney
Commissioner Dennis (Jay) Shinseki

Absent: Commissioner Amber Estrada

Staff Present: Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation, Cathy Merrill

CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

MOTION: Commissioner Shinseki moved and Commissioner Carney seconded to recommend that Commissioner Estrada's absence from the July 16, 2008, Commission meeting be unexcused.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Estrada was absent.)

Commissioner Estrada notified Assistant to the Director Merrill in advance of tonight's meeting that she would be absent due to personal reasons.

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Shinseki seconded to recommend that Commissioner Estrada's absence from the August 20, 2008, Commission meeting be excused.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Estrada was absent.)

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes from Regular Meeting of Arts Commission on July 16, 2008

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Carney seconded to approve Item 1.A.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Estrada was absent.)

1.B. Approval of Draft Minutes from Special Joint Meeting of Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission on July 23, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Shinseki moved and Vice Chair Martin-Milius seconded to approve Item 1.B.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioner Estrada was absent. Commissioner Carney abstained because she was absent from the July 23 meeting.)

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Consideration of Ways to Serve as Arts Advocates in the Community

Assistant to the Director Merrill explained that this topic has come up in the past and ideas to advocate for the arts are included in the Commissioners' meeting packet. There is no formal staff report.

Commissioner Carney recalled that in prior years everyone thought it was a good idea, but no one volunteered to do anything.

Commissioners discussed ways and strategies to serve as arts advocates in the community. General discussion and suggestions followed.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius offered to do an article on Sunnyvale arts programs. Assistant to the Director Merrill agreed to research article dues dates for the Sunnyvale *Quarterly Report* and report back to the Commission.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius asked if it was appropriate for the Commissioners to attend neighboring cities' Council meetings and invite their residents to participate in Sunnyvale recreation programs.

Commissioner Shinseki proposed contacting the Silicon Valley Arts Council regarding suggestions about the ways that the Commissioners can work with them to promote the arts, especially in Sunnyvale.

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Carney seconded to invite Flo Wong and other artists from Raynor Activity Center to speak at a Commission meeting about how Commissioners may do more outreach advocacy for the arts in Sunnyvale.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Estrada was absent.)

Chair Obrey suggested working with the Euphrat Museum of Art. Assistant to the Director Merrill will report back to the Commission on the status of the City's agreement with the museum.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius suggested submitting photos of the City's artwork and also possibly the photo of the respective artist to KSUN to use as fillers. Assistant to the Director said she would find out what might be available regarding an archive of the artwork photos used in AIPD presentations. Vice Chair Martin-Milius suggested the idea of expanding the presentation of the artwork in front of the Fidelity building (Jacobsen Properties) to include the story and details behind the artwork. Commissioner Shinseki agreed that it would be important to explain the artwork so the public may better appreciate it. Vice Chair Martin-Milius and Commissioner Shinseki volunteered to work on this item and develop a plan. Vice Chair Martin-Milius will contact John Pilger, Communications Division, regarding the feasibility of doing a KSUN presentation.

Another suggestion included the creation of a slideshow that links to the City's webpage to showcase the City's artwork.

Chair Obrey said that each month the senior mobile home park where he lives invites guest speakers to give a presentation and a California Theatre Center (CTC) representative will make a presentation in October.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius noted the arts advocate information from staff included the suggestion that Commission members approach service clubs to make presentations to educate the community about arts activities available in Sunnyvale and to help promote National Arts and Humanities month. Commissioner Shinseki offered to put together a list of service organizations and bring it to the next meeting.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius suggested inviting kids in after-school programs to make presentations to the Commission on their projects/artwork. The Commission would present a pin and/or a certificate and follow up with photo in *The Sunnyvale Sun*. Chair Obrey said that anything involving the school districts might be difficult given budget cuts at schools where art programs are usually among the first to go. Commissioner Carney said that the Commissioners could assist at events to judge

art projects. Vice Chair Martin-Milius will talk to the principal of an elementary school near her home and ask how they might assist. Commissioner Shinseki clarified with Vice Chair Martin-Milius on the purpose of her talking to the school principal. Vice Chair Martin-Milius replied that she is looking at what it is possible to do.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius pointed out excellent articles and speakers on www.TED.com which has very good presentations on the arts. (TED stands for Technology, Education, and Design.)

There was general discussion among the Commissioners regarding cuts in art programs in schools after Proposition 87.

Chair Obrey said after he was appointed Coordinator, Vocational Education, San Mateo County Office of Education in 1963, he was invited to make presentations to the Lions and Rotary Clubs. He said the role of the Arts Commission in Sunnyvale is not well known. If the Commission had a prepared presentation, they could use it to present to these groups. Vice Chair Martin-Milius recommended a short presentation. Chair Obrey suggested that the Commission could discuss this item further at the next meeting after Commissioner Shinseki provides a list of service organizations.

Chair Obrey opened the public hearing. There were no speakers and the public hearing was closed.

3. Promotion of National Arts and Humanities Month (October 2008)

Assistant to Director Merrill explained that staff will coordinate the Special Order of the Day (SOD) and National Arts and Humanities Month proclamation with Council, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Arts Commission should be available to accept it during a regular City Council meeting.

Chair Obrey opened the public hearing. There were no speakers and the public hearing was closed.

4. Last Chance to Propose Study Issues or Budget Issues for 2009

No new Study Issues or Budget Issues were proposed.

Chair Obrey opened the public hearing. There were no appearances and the public hearing was closed.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSION

Chair Obrey said he has joined Americans for the Arts and stated he is curious about what other Art Commissions do to advocate for the arts.

STAFF

Assistant to the Director Merrill announced her participation in the Management Talent Exchange Program (MTEP) from September 8 to December 12, 2008. She said that Director Lewis will be serving as the Commission liaison in her absence.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Report

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Obrey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy E. Merrill
Assistant to the Director
Parks and Recreation Department

ks