



**MINUTES
ARTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2008**

7 p.m. SPECIAL MEETING

The Sunnyvale Arts Commission met in special session on October 29, 2008, in City Hall, West Conference Room, 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Obrey called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Robert Obrey
Vice Chair Tara Martin-Milius (arrived 7:25 p.m.)
Commissioner Dennis (Jay) Shinseki (arrived 7:10 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Dixie Carney (excused)
Commissioner Amber Estrada (excused)

Staff Present: Director of Parks and Recreation David A. Lewis
Superintendent of Recreation Nancy Steward
Recreation Supervisor Diane Moglen
Recreation Coordinator Kristin Dance
Administrative Aide Karen Smith

Guests: Flo Oy Wong
Lai Webster

CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Commissioner Carney notified staff in advance of the meeting that she would be absent due to a prior commitment. Commissioner Estrada notified staff that she would be absent due to personal reasons.

MOTION: Vice Chair Tara Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Shinseki seconded to excuse the absences of Commissioner Carney and Commissioner Estrada.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes from Regular Meeting of Arts Commission on August 20, 2008

Corrections to Draft Minutes of August 20, 2008

Commissioner Shinseki, page 2, item 2.

Delete: Commissioner Shinseki offered to prepare an article on Sunnyvale arts programs.

Chair Obrey, page 3, item 2.

Add underlined wording: 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.

Chair Obrey, page 4, item 2.

Delete: Chair Obrey said he was invited to make presentations to the Lyons Club and the Rotary Club.

Correction: 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.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius.

Correct, as needed, all references to Chair and Vice Chair.

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

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Consideration of Proposed Art Donation

Kristin Dance, Visual Arts Recreation Coordinator, presented the staff report. She said the City has been offered a donation of art created by artist Flo Oy Wong who is a Sunnyvale resident and has been making art at the Raynor Activity Center since 1992. Ms. Dance said that if the proposed artwork donation is accepted, it would be displayed at the Senior Center.

Flo Oy Wong stated that she was a founding member of the Sunnyvale Arts Committee in 1982.

She said it is a Chinese cultural tradition that in honor of her 70th birthday and to thank the City, she is giving a work of art entitled *1933: Gee Lai Wah* from the *made in usa: Angel Island Shhh* series to the City.

Ms. Wong introduced her sister, Gee Lai Wah, now known as Lai Webster, who is a 47 year resident of Sunnyvale and an award-winning volunteer at the Senior Center.

Ms. Wong gave a detailed explanation of the background of the proposed art donation and showed a PowerPoint presentation. She said that during the period of 1997 to 2000, she created an installation entitled *made in usa: Angel Island Shhh* to honor her family and other Chinese immigrants who entered the U. S. at Angel Island under false identities from 1910 to 1940. The series was a study of the identity secrets that Chinese immigrants were forced to keep as they immigrated to the U.S. She said her artwork is created from embellished rice sacks, which represent the working class peasants, and sewn on to American flags.

Ms. Wong stated that she is grateful to the City that she has been allowed to make most of her art at the Raynor Activity Center. She mentioned her current art exhibit now showing at the Mountain View Community School of Music and Art. She also stated that she will be receiving two awards this month, the Norman Y. Mineta Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2008 Asian-American Hero Award.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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

MOTION: Vice Chair Tara Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Shinseki seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendation, Alternative No. 1: Council approve acceptance of the proposed donation of artwork from Ms. Flo Oy Wong and direct staff to install the art within the Sunnyvale Senior Center.

There was no Commission discussion.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

3. Ranking of Study Issues for 2009

Following are the proposed 2009 study issues to be ranked by the Commission.

SI No.	Proposed 2009 Study Issue	Staff Recommendation
DPR-01 *	Explore Opportunities to Develop a Community Theatre Based in Downtown Sunnyvale	None
DPR-02 *	Consider the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Community Center Theatre Use Policies and Practices	None
DPR-07	Consider the Reinstatement of the Creative Arts Center Gallery Exhibition and an Enrichment Program for Youth at the Sunnyvale Community Center	For Study

** Study Issues marked with an asterisk (*) fell below the line or were deferred last year. These will be reviewed by Council regardless of any Commission recommendation.*

Director Lewis reviewed the Commission process for ranking study issues and summarized the key elements of each proposed study issue. He answered questions from the Commissioners regarding various study issues.

Commissioners noted that all study issues have financial implications, discussed budgetary issues and where funding might come from for the studies. Vice Chair Martin-Milius said that because of the challenging state-wide financial situations, now might not be the time to study these issues but to reconsider them next year.

Director Lewis explained the cost of the studies versus the cost to implement the recommendations.

DPR-01

Superintendent Steward clarified that both publicly and privately owned properties would be considered. Director Lewis said the funding source for this study issue has not been identified yet.

DPR-02

Superintendent Steward said the essence driving this study issue is how the theatre is scheduled with multiple shows. Director Lewis said the right balance must be maximized. Chair Obrey said he went to the California Theatre Center (CTC) preview season in October and the involvement with the children is fabulous; he does not want to disturb what is working.

DPR-07

Superintendent Steward provided Commissioners with an overview of the history regarding this study issue. Superintendent Steward said it is the responsibility of arts professionals to bring this item forward periodically and analyze to determine if

it is a cost recovery model; maybe through study, opportunities will arise. Chair Obrey said he is a former president of the Photo Club and the club had photo exhibits in the Creative Arts Center gallery when it was open. He said this study can be an advocacy for arts focus.

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

The Commissioners initiated the process for ranking study issues.

Chair Obrey called for motions to drop study issues from consideration.

MOTION: Commissioner Shinseki moved and Vice Chair Martin-Milius seconded to recommend that Council drop *DPR-02 Consider the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Community Center Theatre Use Policies and Practices*.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius said she wants to continue the diverse use of the theatre; she never wants to see children left out of the theatre usage. Commissioner Shinseki said things are working as they are.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

There were no more motions to drop study issues from consideration.

Chair Obrey called for motions to defer study issues from consideration to a later year.

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin-Milius moved and Commissioner Shinseki seconded to recommend that Council defer *DPR-01 Explore Opportunities to Develop a Community Theatre Based in Downtown Sunnyvale*.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius stated she would very much like to see a downtown theatre for the performing arts, but she feels this study could be deferred without a serious negative impact to the City.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin-Milius moved and Chair Obrey seconded to recommend that *DPR-07 Consider the Reinstatement of the Creative Arts Center Gallery Exhibition and an Enrichment Program for Youth at the Sunnyvale Community Center* be ranked as No. 1 priority.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioners Carney and Estrada were absent.)

The overall Commission rankings of study issues for 2009 were as follows:

SI No.	Proposed 2009 Study Issue	Arts Commission Recommendation Rank
DPR-01 *	Explore Opportunities to Develop a Community Theatre Based in Downtown Sunnyvale	Defer
DPR-02 *	Consider the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Community Center Theatre Use Policies and Practices	Drop
DPR-07	Consider the Reinstatement of the Creative Arts Center Gallery Exhibition and an Enrichment Program for Youth at the Sunnyvale Community Center	1
* Study Issues marked with an asterisk (*) fell below the line or were deferred last year. These will be reviewed by Council regardless of any Commission recommendation.		

4. Work Plan Calendar Review

Director Lewis reviewed the work plan calendar. There were no questions from Commissioners.

5. Consideration of Ways to Serve as Arts Advocates in the Community (continued from 8/20/08 meeting)

Director Lewis apologized for not being able to attend the August 20, 2008, Commission meeting where arts advocacy was discussed. He said he admired the Arts Commissioners' commitment and enthusiasm toward arts advocacy.

Director Lewis said the sole true role of the Arts Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to City Council in all matters pertaining to the arts in Sunnyvale and provide arts-related recommendations, such as the Commission recommendation regarding the *Consideration of Proposed Art Donation RTC* on the agenda this evening. He said that occasionally Council will ask the Arts Commission to investigate something.

Director Lewis said if the Commissioners want to step outside their role, it is because they are passionate about the arts. He stated that staff functions offer a great opportunity for staff and the Commissioners to share and interact. Director Lewis said he would accompany an Arts Commissioner as a guest speaker at service clubs; staff can arrange for the presentation or a Commissioner can arrange for the presentation with advance notice and approval. Articles could be written by staff with review by an Arts Commissioner or written by an Arts Commissioner with review by staff. Director Lewis said the Commissioners must be careful of individual Arts Commission representation.

Director Lewis said that everything must be coordinated and worked through with staff. Information that flows out must be channeled through the staff liaison or director for consistency.

Superintendent Steward said that the City has been involved with the *Artsopolis Network* for the past five years. She said that staff can do a better job of educating the Commissioners about what is happening with the arts in Sunnyvale and offered the possibility of the Commissioners giving arts-related presentations. She stated that the Commissioners can become knowledgeable and familiar with the arts in Sunnyvale, attend arts activities and programs in Sunnyvale, and talk to the public.

The Commissioners continued their discussion (from the August 20, 2008, meeting) of ways to serve as arts advocates in the community. The Commissioners reviewed a list of information and action items which were based on discussions from their last meeting.

Director Lewis offered his services as a guest speaker at service clubs, as approved and coordinated by staff.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius said she spoke to John Pilger, Communications Division. Pilger said his division is creating a website for art in public places. Vice Chair Martin-Milius said this is what she is looking for as a possibility for KSUN filler. Pilger referred Vice Chair Martin-Milius to Commission staff liaison to obtain further information, if desired.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius would like to see closer links between the arts and schools. She said she approached the principal at San Miguel Elementary School for discussion ideas only. Superintendent Steward said the Euphrat Museum is funded by the City for after-school programs at San Miguel Elementary School. She said staff could provide an overview of the incredible variety of arts services and programs that are provided by the Euphrat Museum.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius handed out a draft letter for discussion that she had prepared regarding funding for arts in schools. Director Lewis said that any contact with legislators must go through the City's intergovernmental relations (IGR) coordinator and Council. Superintendent Steward offered Vice Chair Martin-Milius a strategy that as an individual, not as a Commissioner, she could give her personal opinion and has the right to speak or correspond with councilmembers and legislators. Superintendent Steward complimented Vice Chair Milius on a well written letter.

Chair Obrey stated that it would be helpful to bring an arts report to the Commissioners to keep them informed. Chair Obrey would like staff assistance to develop a quarterly work/action plan regarding arts advocacy. Director Lewis said it would be an appropriate assignment for Assistant to the Director Merrill, when she returns from an off-site assignment in December 2008.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius said there is no clear purpose in going forward with this topic because there is no clear direction or policy regarding arts advocacy. Director Lewis said that presentations by staff and Commissioners at community meetings, service clubs, or parent/teacher associations can happen at any time with approval and notice, and it would be good exposure for the arts.

Commissioner Shinseki thanked staff for the clarification regarding the role of the Commission.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius offered that the November and December Commission meetings not be canceled, even if there are no other agenda items, so that consideration of ways to serve as arts advocates in the community can continue to be agendized and discussed. Chair Obrey agreed and said that, unless there is no quorum, meetings will not be canceled because there are plenty of things to do.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSION

Vice Chair Martin-Milius stated that she visited the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) because they are good at doing educational outreach projects and marketing specific to the purpose of the group. She showed SCVWD stickers with messages that our marketing unit might be interested in looking at. She said she did not have extra stickers at this time but would provide a copy of the stickers to Superintendent Steward. Vice Chair Martin-Milius said she is in favor of reaching out to children and all things being about learning.

Chair Obrey said that the November guest speaker at the senior mobile home park where he lives will be Gerard Manuel, Recreation Supervisor, Senior Center.

STAFF

Superintendent Steward called Commissioners' attention to the Recreation Division Report for April through June 2008, which was in the Information Only section of the meeting packet.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Obrey adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed,

Karen Smith, Administrative Aide
Parks and Recreation Department
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David A. Lewis, Director
Parks and Recreation Department