



**MINUTES
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2009**

7 p.m. REGULAR MEETING

The Sunnyvale Arts Commission met in regular session on January 21, 2009, in City Hall, West Conference Room, at 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

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 (unexcused)

Staff Present: Assistant to the Director Cathy Merrill
Superintendent of Recreation Nancy Bolgard Steward

CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Estrada's absence would be considered an unexcused absence.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes from Regular Meeting of Arts Commission on November 19, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Shinseki moved and Commissioner Carney seconded to request that the November 19, 2008, minutes be amended to reflect the statement from Director Lewis that he heard from Commissioner Estrada stating she indicated she is considering resigning from the Arts Commission and approve Item 1.A. as amended.

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

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Annual Review of City's Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials

Assistant to the Director Merrill provided an overview of the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct. Assistant to the Director Merrill explained that redundant material would be eliminated and the document streamlined for ease of reading.

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

MOTION: Vice Chair Martin- Milius moved and Commissioner Shinseki seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendation: Alternative 2, Approve revisions to the Code of Ethics and Conduct as depicted by Attachment A.

Commissioner Carney asked if the penalty for violating the Brown act is more severe for Board and Commission members than for Councilmembers. Superintendent Steward noted she does not think so, but said staff will contact the City Attorney for clarification. Commissioner Carney said she would abstain from voting. Assistant to the Director Merrill and Superintendent Steward clarified that the Brown Act is separate from the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. (Commissioner Carney abstained. Commission Estrada was absent.)

Commissioner Carney abstained because she wanted to become more familiar with the Brown Act before voting on this item.

2. Consideration of Ways to Serve as Arts Advocates in the Community (continued from 10/29/08 meeting)

Vice Chair Martin-Milius said that boundaries are set by staff regarding what the Commissioners can actually do as advocates for the arts and asks how they can best advocate for arts in the City, especially since they serve as advisors to Council.

Superintendent Steward noted the study issue process is the way to advocate studies and changes for the arts programs and services. She also said the Commissioners can meet individually with Councilmembers to discuss issues they would like to explore or advocate for. She clarified that the Commissioners are not authorized to write letters representing "the City" to other groups without Council approval. She reviewed strategies that have been proposed and planned.

Vice Chair Martin-Milius said she appreciated staff's efforts to develop a powerpoint presentation that they could use to present to community groups and noted a good venue may be at school parent/teacher associations. Superintendent Steward said staff is working on this project, along with many other items.

Chair Obrey inquired about a spring tour of public/private artwork in the City. Superintendent Steward said, as stated at the last meeting, if the Commissioners are committed to a tour, then staff will schedule one in April or May, but only with a commitment that there will be a quorum available.

Chair Obrey said April would be a good time to schedule the tour. Superintendent Steward said to notify Assistant to the Director Merrill if there are special projects that the Commissioners would like to view and to plan on 1 ½ hours for the tour. Commissioners stated date and time preferences. Assistant to the Director Merrill will notify the Commissioners of tentative times and dates when staff can lead the tour.

Superintendent Steward referenced a packet of materials that were given to Commissioners at the last meeting outlining all of the City's arts programs and services. She asked if they had any comments regarding programs they participated in and to share with their friends and co-workers if they had a good experience.

Superintendent Steward said that the Evening of Cultural Arts series in the theatre sold out and people had to be turned away.

Commissioner Shinseki inquired about the status of an updated pamphlet showing the City's artwork. Superintendent Steward explained the Recreation Division does not have the funds to reproduce an updated brochure. The study issue/budget issue process is a way to get more funds but, given the economic status of the City, staff is trying to cut back and non-essential items are being postponed.

Chair Obrey said he signed up for a class at the Senior Center.

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

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSION

Chair Obrey inquired about the closing and re-opening of Target at the Town Center and public artwork requirements. Superintendent Steward said staff is now working with Target on the proposed artwork.

Chair Obrey requested an excused absence from the Commission meeting on February 18, 2009.

STAFF

Assistant to the Director Merrill noted that the Council Budget Issue/Study Issue Workshop will be held on Friday, January 23. The City Manager will present an overview on the financial status of the City and study issues will be ranked.

Superintendent Steward said the workshop will be webcast. She also explained that a study issue paper regarding the gallery has changed to be an item that staff will complete internally. Vice Chair Martin-Milius inquired about listening versus viewing on the webcast and if one can actually see it live or not. She noted that she had trouble fast forwarding on video recording.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Report
- Recreation Division Quarterly Report for July-September 2008

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Obrey adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Merrill, Assistant to the Director
Parks and Recreation Department

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