

CITY OF MARTINEZ
ARTS AND LIBRARY COMMISSION

December 10, 2008

Approved January 14, 2009

A regular meeting of the Arts and Library Commission was called to order by Chair Dorrie Langley at 7:05 p.m. on December 10, 2008, in Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Dorrie Langley

Commissioners Marta Van Loan, Karen Bell-Patten, Michael Gandy Carol Wiley and Donald Pallotta

Absent: None

Staff: Joann Tool, Recreation Division Services

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 8, 2008

Chair Langley requested the following changes to the minutes of October 8, 2008:

Page 3: Under Announcements; under upcoming parties: Change the word "Jay" to the word "Joy".

Commissioner Pallotta moved the motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2008, as amended, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Grant request: Martinez Arts Association

Sandy Sherwood of the Martinez Arts Association spoke on behalf of the follow up to a grant request they were looking to obtain from the Art and Library Commission during the October 8, 2008, meeting. Ms. Sherwood said that the Holiday event at the gallery is now approximately half way through and has been successful thus far. Both the sales and visitors to the gallery have been successful. The gallery has drawn people who have never visited the gallery in the past.

Commissioner Pallotta asked Ms. Sherwood to once again review the request she was seeking as not all commissioners were present at the last meeting.

Ms. Sherwood once again explained the Holiday events going on at the gallery. She said that the "Shoes, Stepping into the New Year" is going well and that on Friday December 12, 2008, there will be Christmas Carols being sung and on Saturday, December 13, 2008, there will be an acoustic guitar player. She states that the costs she is seeking to cover with the \$1000 grant is

for \$650 for advertising costs and the remaining \$350 for the acoustic guitar performer and flyers and printing. She told the Commission she has included with her grant request a copy of the advertisement along with showing payment of the \$650.

Commissioner Van Loan told Ms. Sherwood that she has done a great job on the advertising as she has seen it advertised multiple times.

Public Comment:

Kristin Henderson, member of the Martinez Arts Association spoke on her concerns of the gallery excluding members of the Martinez Arts Association. She indicated that the gallery is a public place being ran by public funds. She spoke on her participation of posting flyers for the Art in the Park event, stating she personally posted flyers in all of downtown Martinez.

Commissioner Pallotta said that he felt that Ms. Henderson has some personal issues that would probably be best brought up to the Martinez Arts Association.

Ms. Henderson said that she just wanted to bring to the attention of the Commission of the excluded participates at the gallery as the Arts and Library Commission is supporting this event.

Chair Langley explained that "Shoes, Stepping into the New Year" is a fundraising event for First Night and that the proceeds from this are split 50/50 between First Night and the artists participating.

The Commission discussed the gallery and the members currently involved as well as the co-op of the gallery.

Chair Langley and Commissioner Wiley stated that they had a conflict of interest since they are members of the Martinez Arts Association and excluded themselves for the motion.

Commissioner Van Loan asked if there was a motion for the grant request.

Commissioner Bell-Patten moved the motion to provide the \$1000 grant request and that these funds be used only for advertising, acoustic guitar performer, flyers and printing, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

b. Commission Reorganization

Ms. Tool explained that the commission reorganization did go before City Council on December 3, 2008. City Council agrees that it would be of benefit to combine the commissions, especially now that the bond has passed. It was recommended that the new commission consist of 7 members, but City Council would like there to be 9 members. She further explained that there should be two subcommittees one to discuss Art and Library issues and one to discuss Marina issues so that these could be summarized during the regular meetings just as the Park and Recreation Commission already have subcommittees for youth sports, pool, REDS.

At this time the proposal will be going back to City Council with the changes on December 17, 2008 and should all be in place, the new ordinance would go into affect in 30 days. Ms. Tool explained that all members of the three commissions will be sent letters having the opportunity to state whether or not they would like to participate in the new commission.

The Commission discussed having a regular scheduled meeting in January, 2009, so that they can discuss any final issues prior to the reorganization of the commissions. They would like to have on the agenda, Old Business, as is, New Business - discuss remaining budget and also having a potluck.

Public Comment:

Ms. Henderson asked if the Martinez Opera has received any monies from the Art and Library Commission this year.

Ms. Tool said no they have not and if they are seeking a request, they can go to the website to make a request.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Library Issues

Verbal report by a Commissioner member regarding current activities at the library

Commissioner Van Loan spoke on the renovation of the library. She explained that she has received the previous plans from Measure O from the County Engineer and they are being reviewed for Measure H. These include two bathrooms and elevators. They also show hard physical structure items needed prior to renovation such as there is no running water downstairs and the fact that the lower level is below water lines so a water pump would be required. This also includes dual pane windows and an additional exit downstairs.

Commissioner Pallotta asked when the funds from Measure H would begin being disbursed.

Ms. Tool explained this may be as soon as March, 2009.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about the priority of projects and how this would be determined.

Ms. Tool explained that staff had provided recommendations to the Park and Recreation Commission who voted on them during their last meeting.

The Commission talked about the bond oversight committee and how this is for financial oversight only.

Public Comment:

Ms. Henderson voiced her concerns on the Historical Registry of the library and any changes to the outside of the library.

The Commission discussed the renovations and explained that there are no plans to make any changes to the historical facade of the library itself.

Librarian Ann Aaronian said that there has been quite a few class visits and that the garden is being used either prior to the visit or at the end of the visit. She sees the garden getting high usage now that the weather is not so hot.

Chair Langley said that during the months of October and November four classes that visited the library also included a trip to the Gallery. They made homemade bookmarks and Kathy did a painting demonstration.

Commissioner Van Loan spoke on the engraved bricks and that they continue to be placed. They are still available for purchase at a cost of \$250.00 which include 4 lines of 21 spaces each.

- b. Community Art Plan
Ongoing discussion of a possible Art's plan for the community

Commissioner Bell-Patten said that she hopes that this discussion of the community art plan is carried over to the new commission.

Public Comment:

Ms. Henderson provided the Commission with her brochure for The Tile Heritage Foundation. She talked about the Child Heritage grant she receive for \$1500. She believes that this has brought people to the downtown.

The Commission discussed having this item being added to the next agenda to discuss providing funding for the brochure.

Ms. Henderson also discussed her ideas of wanting to put more information out to the public on what Martinez has to offer. She discussed the mural brochure and that she would like to add the new murals to it.

Ms. Tool explained that Councilmember Mark Ross is backing Ms. Henderson on her ideas and updating the mural brochure.

The Commission and Ms. Henderson discussed the possibility of putting an insert in the already printed mural brochure. The Commission asked Ms. Henderson to bring an example of the insert to the January meeting.

Commissioner Bell-Patten also requested that staff provide a count on the number of brochures remaining.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Chair Wiley spoke on the need to provide the adult schools with \$500 towards art supplies. Commissioner Wiley read a letter submitted by the adult school that included a list of supplies.

The Commission discussed how this is a commission request and not a grant request and that it should be on the January agenda.

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked that the January meeting be a potluck and that the potluck be at 6:30 p.m. prior the regular scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Langley announced that on December 12, 2008, there will be a party at the gallery for "Shoes, Stepping into the New Year" and on the 13th will be the wine stroll on Main Street. On New Years Eve there will be a dumpster version project where the sell recycled art.

Commissioner Van Loan asked about the First Night New Year's Eve event as she has not seen any buttons being sold anywhere in town. Ms. Tools said she believes this event is still on, but has not seen and heard about the buttons as of yet.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Jennings
Minutes Clerk