

**CITY OF MARTINEZ  
ARTS & LIBRARY COMMISSION**

January 14, 2009

A regular meeting of the Arts and Library Commission was called to order by Chair Langley at 7:02 p.m. on January 14, 2009, in Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Dorrie Langley

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

Absent: Michael Gandy

Staff: Joann Tool, Recreation Division Services

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2008**

Commissioner Van Loan moved the motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2008, as is, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maria Billingsley, Martinez Opera Contra Costa Executive Director, told the Commission the Martinez Opera is looking for a home and that she attended the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on January 13, 2009, to propose the idea of incorporating sports and arts in the Zocchi buildings. Ms. Billingsley said the Park and Recreation Commission is focusing on using the space for sports only, so she asked the Commission to put in some word to City Council about using the building for the arts.

Joann Tool said the Park and Recreation Commission has not rejected any ideas for uses of the property and that she has compiled all the proposed ideas. She stated the Commission has one more meeting on February 3, 2009, and after that, it will be an item discussed by the new commission. Ms. Toll explained there are no funds to fix the building and nothing permanent is going into the building because the space can only be used for 2-3 years.

Chair Langley asked if the Martinez Opera needed to have letter of intent for its plan. Ms. Tool stated City Council charged the Park and Recreation Commission with finding a use for the building and that the Arts and Library cannot make a recommendation or discuss the issue because it is not an agenda item.

Kristen Henderson asked why the two cement Zocchi buildings have to come down after two years. Ms. Tool explained that the conditions of the transportation funds used to buy the Zocchi property require that 425 parking spaces be built.

Ms. Henderson said the Opera was able to renovate the Nader Building, put more capital into the building than they were given in free rent, and suggested the Opera could do the same in the Zocchi building.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a) Grant Request – Martinez Opera**

Ms. Billingsley said she would answer any questions concerning her grant request for the 2009-2010 opera season.

Commissioner Pallotta noted the Commission does not give grants exceeding \$1000, and that Ms. Billingsley's request is for \$3000.

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked if the Commission will lose the option to create a budget once the Commission dissolves. She said the Commission worked hard to create a budget and that she wanted to carry the budget process into the new Commission.

Ms. Tool said there will be a budget discussion later, but funding may be taken out of general funds like the Commission did last year. She noted the Park and Recreation Commission does not have a budget and, therefore, will have no funds to bring forward. Ms. Tool stated if the Commission has any money left over they can take an action to recommend to City Council that the money carry forward to the new commission so it has a budget.

After some discussion about forwarding money and a budget process to the new commission, the Commission agreed to recommend that the new Commission have a grant budget and, should any money remain in the budget after the Arts and Library Commission dissolves, the funds be used for the combined commission.

##### **b) Emergency Grant Request-**

Chair Langley said they are adding an emergency item for a grant request to the meeting agenda. Commissioner Van Loan moved to support the emergency grant amendment, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

Kathleen Brown, teacher at Briones Independent Study, provided the Commission with a list of art supplies and asked for an emergency grant of \$500 to be used for fine art materials for Briones Independent Study and Vicente High School.

Commissioner Van Loan stated the total of the two grant proposals (\$3000+\$500=\$3500) exceeds the Commission's budget of \$2000. She suggested the commission give the Martinez Opera \$1,715 and the Vicente High School and Briones Independent Study \$275. She said the commission would have \$10 remaining, which would carry forward the budget process to the new commission.

Chair Langley noted the Commission has a ceiling of \$1000 on grants. Commissioner Bell-Patten said she could not, in fairness to the others in the past who have asked for more and were not granted it, vote to give more than \$1000 to the Martinez Opera.

After some discussion about the allocation of grants, Commissioner Pallotta made a motion to grant \$1000 to the Martinez Opera and \$500 to Briones Independent and Vicente H.S., seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

**b) Budget – remaining balance \$2,000**

Ms. Tool said the Commission can make a motion to forward the balance of \$500 to the combined commission.

Commissioner Van Loan said they should consider using some of the funds for the tile brochure.

**c) Brochures**

**1. Tile Brochure – Kristen Henderson**

Kristen Henderson spoke on the tile brochure and said she does not feel they need to produce it at this time.

**2. Art Around Us Brochure – current count 364**

Ms. Henderson recommended putting money into reproducing and updating the Art Around Us Brochure (a.k.a the Mural Brochure). She noted the templates for the brochure we lost.

Commissioner Van Loan recommended the Commission roll over the budget money for updating the brochure and lost template, which, she noted forwards both money and the budget process to the new commission. Ms. Henderson asked that funds be marked specifically for the printing of the brochure.

Commissioner Bell-Patten moved the motion to recommend in writing that the remaining \$500 in grant funding be used for printing the mural brochure and/or grant application under the new Commission, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

**d) Commission Reorganization – February 2009**

Ms. Tool told the Commission that of the 10 people returning applications for the new commission, 9 will be seated and one will serve as an alternate.

Commissioner Van Loan asked how the new Commission will decide how it functions. Ms. Tool said after the mayor formally appoints everyone, the first meeting will be to discuss organization. She noted by-laws may be created so there is a functioning commission all the times. Ms. Tool said the structure of the Pool, Library, and Parks subcommittees from the Park and Recreation Commission will be brought to the new Commission. She also noted there will be an arts subcommittee and a marina subcommittee.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Library Issues**

**Verbal report by a Commission member regarding current actives at the Library**

Commissioner Pallotta reported that the Martinez Library is having administrative problems and has not had regular meetings since the President has left. He said the seat remains vacant and that they need to find someone to take the position.

Chair Langley announced February as Book Illustrators Month and noted that an art fair will be held on February 20, 2009.

**b) Community Art Plan**  
**Ongoing discussion of a possible Art's plan for the community**

Chair Langley said the Community Art Plan has been put on the back burner.

**VI. COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**

Commissioner Bell-Patton thanked all the Commissioners for all the years she has worked with them. She said she is thrilled to have worked with them and proud of what they've accomplished.

Chair Langley said it was her honor to serve with the commissioners and thanked Ms. Tool for her hard work. She also stated she is proud of the community and those who have made it a community.

On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner Wiley presented Ms. Tool with two bouquets of flowers (one for Ms. Tool and the other for Robin Agostino, Administrative Aide) and thanked her for her expertise.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Langley announced the dates of the gallery at the Sharkey Building.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by,

Last set of informal minutes, last meeting of the Arts and Library Commission meetings.  
This Commission has been disbanded, January 14, 2009

Submitted by,

Jinelle LeSage and Robin Agostino  
Minutes Clerk