



**City of El Segundo**  
**Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
for January 28, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
at El Segundo Public Library  
Rose Garden Room

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva. We recognize the Tongva people as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands). We also acknowledge that Los Angeles County is home to the largest Indigenous populations in the US.

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chairperson Jeff Cason.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Chairperson Jeff Cason, Kristen Dorsey (arrived at 5:40pm), Maureen Kingsley, Mark Knight (arrived at 5:51pm), Michael Kreski, Brian Mitchell, Natalie Strong, and Neal Von Flue

Members absent: George Renfro, Vice Chairperson Eva Sweeney

City Council Liaisons:

Councilmember Pimentel: present (arrived at 5:36pm, left at 5:58pm)

City Staff present: Melissa McCollum, Library Director  
Julie Todd, Senior Librarian

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

1. City of El Segundo Website Launch (Kristina Kora-Beckman, 10 minutes)

Librarian Kristina Kora-Beckman presented the new City website to the committee, specifically the pages relating to Arts and Culture and the Cultural Development Program. She explained that the website will be able to be edited and updated by library staff as projects, programs and information changes to keep it current. It will also serve as a great way to promote public art and publicize the committee's accomplishments through photos and videos.

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for December 11, 2019**

1. Approval of minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting of December 11, 2019.

MOTIONED by Neal Von Flue and SECONDED by Natalie Strong to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion CARRIED 8-0.

**F. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (10 minutes)

Melissa McCollum announced that Neal Von Flue was the only ACC member who expressed interest in serving as the committee's Chairperson and Eva Sweeney was the only one who expressed interest in serving as the committee's Vice Chairperson. With no additional nominations voiced during the meeting, the committee voted.

MOTIONED by Michael Kreski and SECONDED by Brian Mitchell to have elect Neal Von Flue as the committee's new Chairperson. Motion CARRIED 8-0.

MOTIONED by Natalie Strong and SECONDED by Brian Mitchell to re-elect Eva Sweeney as the committee's Vice Chairperson. Motion CARRIED 8-0.

Former Chairperson Jeff Cason stepped down and Chairperson Neal Von Flue continued to lead the meeting.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. El Segundo Poet Laureate Proposal – (Florence Valladares/10 minutes)  
Recommendation: Discussion and possible action.

Community member Florence Valladares read a letter that her mother, Glasgow, Scotland resident Anne Sikking, wrote to the Arts and Culture Committee introducing the concept of Poet Laureate in hopes that El Segundo would consider establishing a program and considering her as a candidate. The committee discussed the proposal briefly, and it was noted that the ACC discussed establishing a similar program in El Segundo approximately two years ago. The ACC tasked the Projects Subcommittee to research the topic and return with a recommendation.

MOTIONED by Natalie Strong and SECONDED by Jeff Cason to direct the Projects Subcommittee to discuss the possibilities of establishing a Poet Laureate program in El Segundo and to bring it back to the committee for further conversation. Motion CARRIED 8-0.

2. Art Donation Consideration – John Desatoff Paintings (Melissa McCollum/10 minutes)  
Recommendation: Discussion and possible action.

Melissa McCollum shared that community member Carol Low contacted the City regarding a possible donation of a collection of paintings she owns by artist John Desatoff (1919-2014). John was formerly an illustrator and graphic designer for TRW in Redondo Beach. His work includes covers and illustration for a number of publications including *Fortune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Aeronautics* magazine. John's paintings have been exhibited in galleries across the country, including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Melissa reported that Carol recently alerted her that she plans to sell rather than donate the paintings. She will contact the City again if the situation changes.

## **I. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Events/Marketing – Natalie Strong shared that the Events/Marketing Subcommittee discussed what should be considered a cultural destination to be included on the new website's GIS map of public art. The ACC decided that the first priority in establishing content for the GIS map will be to develop a list of public art in El Segundo. A later step will be to further discuss what constitutes art and cultural institutions and if they should be included in the GIS map.
2. Grants – none
3. Cultural Development Program – Melissa McCollum announced that the first project that qualifies for the Cultural Development requirement has been reported to the Library Services Department, but the developer has not determined yet if they will provide public art on-site or pay the in-lieu fee to the Cultural Development Fund.
4. Projects – Neal Von Flue mentioned that the Projects Subcommittee did not meet. The Centennial Utility Box Wrap project RFP and Call for Artists have been posted to the City's new website as well as various Cultural Art organization websites.

## **J. GOVERNANCE**

Melissa McCollum said that both Julie and Melissa will be at a conference during the time of February's regular ACC meeting and asked if the committee would like to continue to meet on February 25<sup>th</sup> or hold a Special Meeting instead. The committee decided to schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm in the Rose Garden Room at the library.

## **K. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Jeff Cason – Jeff Cason thanked the committee for allowing him to serve as Chairperson and congratulated Chairperson Neal Von Flue in his new role. Jeff Cason looks forward to continuing to be involved with the ACC as a member.

Kristen Dorsey – Mentioned her friend and co-curator Jaclyn Roessel, Director of Decolonization Futures with the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, is available as a guest speaker for ACC through Skype.

Maureen Kingsley – Talked about the American Youth Symphony, a group of young musicians with their headquarters in El Segundo. The American Youth Symphony is interested in partnering with South Bay non-profit and charity organizations to bring music to the people.

Mark Knight – Congratulations to the Slice & Pint on their one year anniversary. Mark spoke to Scot Nicol at Slice & Pint, and Scot indicated he'll likely be working with the ACC as City Council Liaison in 2020. Mark emphasized that a cultural resources map produced with City funds (staff, web hosting) should follow the same standards as anything else we would fund as an artistic endeavor. Mark also felt that in-kind funding should be held to the same ethical standards as direct funding.

He recommended this concept for consideration during future Events/Marketing Subcommittee discussions.

The "Americas Wild Places" project is an endeavor to promote exposure to wilderness treasures as a means to heal traumatic brain injury. The project will spend the first quarter of 2020 photographing Southern California. Their project may be followed at: [www.americaswildplaces.org](http://www.americaswildplaces.org)

Michael Kreski – none

Brian Mitchell – none

Natalie Strong – Looking for a home for the table currently in the Room of Requirement when she takes down the exhibit. Has not decided on what the next exhibit will be.

Chairperson Neal Von Flue – Thanked the committee for nominating him as ACC Chairperson. Acknowledged all efforts in the ACC's recent Call for Artists and RFP for the Centennial Utility Box Wrap Project.

## **M. CITY LIAISON UPDATES**

Julie Todd announced that ACC members volunteering for the Library After Dark program on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> should arrive at 6:30pm and enter through the west door in order to avoid an anticipated crowd of people.

She asked if it would be of interest or possible for there to be added an "In Memory of" field in the online Cultural Development Program donation page.

Julie also shared the new special edition Artist Series Library Card, featuring Nanibah Chacon's mural, Portals to Memory. The new library card will be released during the National Library Week celebration at the end of April.

## **N. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., at the El Segundo Public Library, Rose Garden Conference Room, 111 West Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Posted by: Julie Todd

Date & Time: