

RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (RACC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Commission Chair Florene Wiley; Vice Chair Melissa Kirk; and Commissioners Tom Herriman and Phillip Mehas

Absent: Commissioners Lynson Beaulieu and Emily Leighton; and Council Liaison Melvin Willis

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The RACC meeting was called to order by Chair Wiley at 7:06 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

a. APPROVE May 26, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Mehas reported that Keno was present as a guest at the meeting.

Without a motion or second, Chair Wiley called the roll to approve the May 26, 2022 meeting agenda, as submitted, which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

b. APPROVE April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Without a motion or second, Chair Wiley called the roll to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting, as submitted, which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day read public comments from Cordell Hindler dated May 20, 2022: *Hello Winifred, I have some comments for the record. 1. I will be talking to the Youth Council to discuss filling the vacancies for the Arts & Culture Commission. 2. The Arts & Culture Commission is invited to a performance of Sordid Lives on June 3 to July 2 at Masquers Playhouse on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 o'clock; \$30 per person, proof of vaccination is required. Sincerely, Cordell.*

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM/VOTE

- a. RACC Restructure 2022-23 Fiscal Year
- b. Approve Combining RACC/PAAC to One Meeting Per Month

- c. Begin Meeting RACC/PAAC Second Thursday, July 14, 2022
- d. Approve No Meeting in August to Align with City Council Recess

Ms. Day explained at the last meeting the Chair had indicated that she would be resigning, which would require a RACC discussion on how to move forward. She noted the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) at its meeting two weeks ago had discussed the next Chair of the PAAC, to look at the total number of people participating, and to consider how that situation impacted a variety of things. Given the small number of people involved, whether there needed to be two meetings every month, one for the RACC and one for the PAAC was questioned, and combining the two meetings had been considered; with the first hour being one group and the second hour being the other. If there were more issues involved with one group than another that would require more time, there would then have to be a discussion as to how to proceed.

Ms. Day reported that the City Council did not meet in August and there was a desire that the RACC and PAAC follow suit. Pending new members and a greater participation, the suggestion was to go with the proposed new ordinance to have the RACC at the top of the organizational chart and the PAAC a committee of the RACC. As an ad hoc committee, she suggested that a full two hours would not be needed for a meeting. She supported one meeting a month provided the available members read and be apprised of the staff reports prior to the meeting.

Vice Chair Kirk supported the suggestions for both the RACC and the PAAC, recommended a greater discussion of the RACC if new members could not be added, and advised that she would be selling her home at the end of the summer and would be moving out of the City. She did not believe the RACC could operate without new people.

Ms. Day clarified that a quorum for a meeting was based on the total number of members present and not on the highest number of potential members.

Commissioner Mehas agreed with the recommendation to move to one meeting a month, recommended one agenda for both groups, and suggested that the bodies would no longer be separate and it would help to have more people involved in the issues with respect to the RACC and PAAC. He also questioned whether members had to be residents of the City of Richmond.

Commissioner Herriman agreed with one meeting as opposed to two but suggested the PAAC had such a specialized function it would ultimately need a separate meeting. He did not want to see the PAAC be dissolved and absorbed into the RACC. He recommended a combined meeting in July and a reconsideration of the issue in the future. He added that when the Mayor's seat changed it would be easier to bring in members for both groups.

Commissioner Mehas agreed and noted that special meetings could be called whenever needed.

Ms. Day explained that the Zoom invitation for both the RACC and PAAC had been reserved until the end of the year for both the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Ideally, the RACC should meet the first Thursday of the month to get most of the business taken care of at the first of the month with the second Thursday to be available, as needed.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to approve combining the RACC and PAAC to one meeting per month; to begin the combined meeting on the second Thursday in July (July 14, 2022) and to continue thereafter; with no meeting in August to align with the City Council recess, carried unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. NPA Mini Grant Liaison Report Updates (RACC Commissioners)

Chair Wiley referred to the many wonderful progress reports that had come in from the NPA Mini Grantees and commended the projects and the progress of those projects.

Commissioner Herriman reported that his two grantees were very impressive; Robin Lopez working with young people and interviewing artists; and Mark Anthony James at the Police Athletic League training people to make music, with videos being made for both projects.

Chair Wiley noted this was the second year of working with both grantees. With respect to her grantees, she had not heard from Anthony Edwards but would check with him on the status of his project.

Ms. Day stated that she would circulate progress reports to the RACC when they came in, and she would also circulate the information to KCRT, which was putting together some kind of package to identify what everyone was doing. She would also ensure that Council Liaison Willis received the same updates.

b. PAAC Report (Chair Beaulieu)

c. PAAC RNCC Meeting Report (E. Leighton and T. Herriman)

Ms. Day presented a summary from Chair Beaulieu of the last PAAC meeting on May 12, with information and a presentation about the art inventory, an internal project that included photographs; and a presentation of the Transparent Richmond Dashboard which highlighted different art projects going on in the City. She stated that once photographs had been included in the inventory more specific sorting and separation could occur.

Another presentation at the PAAC related to the Senior Center Mural Restoration Team Spark out of Los Angeles, which was now under contract and it was hoped that the mural would be installed in the next 30 days.

Ms. Day also highlighted the Public Art Master Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) where there had been one response; and the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC) update where the RNCC had received an information survey to identify where they might want a large (\$100,000) commission in their neighborhoods. She commented that one of the things necessary would be a Plan B since the art opportunity was not on the RNCC's list of priorities, and in addition to working with the neighborhoods another way would have to be found for some large locations.

Chair Wiley and Commissioner Mehas both urged Ms. Day to reach out to more than the RNCC and recommended going directly to the Chair of each Neighborhood Council to spark some response.

Ms. Day stated that could be done and the deadline could be extended as well.

With respect to funding for some of the City's cultural events and for the upcoming Pride event in particular, Commissioner Mehas recommended that organizations in Richmond that had already set up festivals, events or presentations should be supported, potentially at \$5,000, which he suggested should start next year.

Ms. Day advised that more research would be required as to whether the RACC could do that.

Chair Wiley asked if the RACC could be a sponsor to the tune of \$5,000 and create a banner as a visual representation at the events or find some other way where the PAAC could contribute. Ms. Day stated that a potential strategy could be presented at the June RACC meeting.

With respect to Ookwe Park didactic signage, Ms. Day noted that sample signage had been submitted to the RACC two weeks ago and no comments had been received. She was waiting to hear from some of the stakeholders who had worked on the project and expected to get their input as well so that the graphic designer could move forward with the signage.

Commissioner Mehas suggested that the City's logo should not be too large on the signs and Ms. Day advised that three logos were involved; the City of Richmond, the RACC and the Ohlone Federation. She added that the signage was in three parts and included the directional signage, the didactic signage to tell the story, and the botanical markers that would be located in the plant beds. The full package would be submitted to the RACC for approval in June. She explained, when asked, that the sculptor, Yuki Nagase, was currently in Japan and had been told about the cracked granite stone in the park. Nothing more could be done pending his return. She explained that was why the other signage would be lifted pedestal style (National Park Service style) to avoid that type of damage.

Ms. Day referred to the RACC April project updates and reported that she had been working on encroachment permit plans for the banner installations for the Richmond Main Street Initiative (RMSI) and Fred Franklin, and then for Spark, the mural installation for the Senior Center. She noted that the City would be paying for the encroachment fees and for staff time to help install all of the banners.

Ms. Day also reported she had been in Washington, D.C. for the Americans for the Arts Conference and she would provide a summary of that conference at another time.

With respect to the Caltrans Beautification Project, Ms. Day reported that starting in July a \$1.3 million project would commence and as part of that project Caltrans would contribute to a couple of murals on its underpasses and pay for the restoration of John Werhle's two murals. The City had until December 2023 for the projects to be installed. Given that two of the three murals would be located across from the existing John Werhle murals to be restored, she noted those murals told a story about Richmond, and for purposes of continuity Mr. Werhle would be hiring a couple of muralists who had worked for him years ago and those muralists might be part of a limited call for muralists to work on the design of the new murals. In addition, an administrative person could be funded from the pool of money as a contractor to help manage the project for eighteen months.

d. NPA Mini Grant Application Committee 2022-23

Ms. Day stated that the electronic version of the NPA Mini Grant Application was being prepared to make it easier for everyone to apply and it should be ready next week for distribution using the same mailing list as last year along with others that had added themselves to the registry. The call would be out for a month, there would be an information session and an attempt to model the process similar to other grants in the City. The information session would be recorded and made available online for anyone not able to attend the actual session. The mini grant would be out next month with an end-of-June deadline. If interviews were needed they would be done in September and not everyone would be interviewed to streamline the process.

Commissioner Mehas recommended more scrutiny at the beginning of the projects to make sure that unforeseen elements did not slow down the process and impact staff such as what had happened with the encroachment permit this year and other requirements that had created problems in the past. In that way, grantees would be made aware of the potential need for encroachment permits and the fees involved along with other issues.

Chair Wiley commented that she had been very pleased with the evolution of the application process and the fact that the information session would be online. She recommended that Ms. Day's report on the Americans for the Arts Conference be placed on the next meeting agenda.

e. Technical Assistance Workshop Committee September 2022

There was no discussion.

f. Volunteer Outreach – Meeting Observers and Resident Survey Response

Chair Wiley asked the RACC about volunteers and it was noted by Ms. Day that Keno had volunteered and had been present at both PAAC and RACC meetings for the last few months.

Asked how she had found out about the need for RACC volunteers, Keno stated she was interested in identifying additional ways to get involved in the community, particularly in the realm of art considering her passion for art and what she had been able to do with the De Young Museum in her early volunteer efforts. She had gotten information from the website about the meetings and she had applied to be a RACC Commissioner.

Ms. Day advised that she had explained the circumstances of why new Commissioners were currently not being appointed and she noted there was an opportunity to work with Keno until the Mayor had appointed new Commissioners. She was looking for things that Keno could do as a volunteer, referred to the Public Art Master Plan and noted a team of folks would be going to public gatherings to survey people. She urged Keno to keep apprised of the agendas to see what was happening and referred specifically to an Art Selection Panel that might also be of interest to her.

Commissioner Mehas clarified with Ms. Day that RACC volunteers would not be able to vote.

VII. April STAFF REPORT

The April Staff Report was provided earlier.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS

a. Grantee Events

Chair Wiley referred to Mr. Hindler’s public comment related to Sordid Lives at Masquers Playhouse and commented that there was a grantee project of What Women Wanted, also at Masquers on Father’s Day/Juneteenth weekend, and tickets had been made available to Commissioners for a 1:00 P.M. matinee on June 18 and an evening performance at 7:00 P.M. on June 19, 2022. She asked those Commissioners interested in tickets to identify that interest.

b. Community Partner Events: Juneteenth, RMSI

Ms. Day stated she would provide more information on Juneteenth to be held on June 19 outside the park, and on the Richmond Main Street Initiative.

c. Love Your Block

Ms. Day advised that she had sent the monthly newsletter to everyone to identify the activities planned throughout the month.

Ms. Day reported that most of the activities related to school-aged children and education programs. She offered an example of what the Public Art Master Plan team would be able to use for their pop-ups (such as Farmer's Markets) and was pleased to see that people were getting back out and it was nice to see the activities happening again.

Ms. Day reported that David Flores, the City's Poet Laureate, had done a reading at the last City Council meeting. The City's Youth Poet Laureate had not been able to participate at that time because it was a school night.

Chair Wiley took this opportunity to commend the NPA grantees that were representing the City very well and she was particularly impressed with the Little Libraries.

Ms. Day commended the Osprey Bird Project that would be much bigger than originally discussed but would not be finished until the end of July.

IX. ADJOURN until June 23, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk, and carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC on June 23, 2022.