

Richmond Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond Conference Room
Richmond

Thursday, February 28, 2019

In attendance: Jenny Balisle, Rosalie Fay Barnes, Melissa Kirk, Silvia Ledezma, Nava Mizrahhi, and Florene Wiley

Absent: Steven Robinson, and Antonio Tamayo

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager
Katy Curl, Library and Cultural Services Director

Guests: Steve Heminger, and Ben Choi, Liaison

I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Balisle called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

II. Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wiley, second by Commissioner Mizrahhi and carried unanimously to approve the agenda, as submitted.

III. Approve Minutes from January 24, 2019 Meeting

Commissioner Wiley requested a correction to the second paragraph from the top of Page 3 of the minutes, to read: *We are in the arts culture and entertainment business and Thursday is a common performance date more so than Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays.*

Motion by Commissioner Wiley, second by Commissioner Mizrahhi to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting, as amended, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Balisle, Barnes, Kirk, Ledezma, Mizrahhi, and Wiley

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Robinson, and Tamayo

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

V. All-Included Fashion Show Presentation

Chair Balisle explained that she had attended an All-Included Fashion Show at Bridge Art Storage Space and had been so impressed she had invited Edith Mariscal to make a presentation.

Edith Mariscal, the Director of the All-Included Fashion Show, explained how she had come to be associated with an all-inclusive fashion show bringing together designers, brands and lots of different people. She reported that 200 people had attended the event at Bridge Art Storage.

Given the success of the event, the creativity, the energy, and the participation of people of all ages and backgrounds, Chair Balisle recommended it be a signature future RACC event.

In response to comments, Ms. Mariscal explained that she could make available a short video of the event to the RACC, explained that the fashions had been posted on Instagram, and shared her future goal of having a center where children could learn and be supported.

The RACC complimented Ms. Mariscal, described some opportunities such as Kids First, the RYSE Center, the Latina Center, Building Blocks for Kids, and the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, that might be available, along with grants, to help her in her efforts.

VI. 2019 Vision and RACC Conflict Protocol Form

Commissioner Barnes presented the RACC Conflict Protocol Form and presented the 2019 Vision document that had previously been discussed.

Commissioner Wiley requested the following changes to the bullets under Description, to the third bullet: *Commissioners are to provide a written conflict description with solution to the Arts & Culture Manager*; and to the fifth bullet: *Submit arts form to Arts & Culture Manager 10 days in advance of RACC meeting for agenda*. For the title Solution: She recommended that the title read *Proposed Solution*, and Commissioner Ledezma recommended it also include *Based Upon Discussion*.

Ms. Seville stated the purpose of the form was to give Commissioners an outlet for expressing a conflict and considering a proposed solution.

The Conflict Protocol Form would return on the next meeting agenda, as revised, for action.

VII. Arts & Culture Manager Assistant Update

Ms. Seville described the discussions in the past for getting assistance for the Arts & Culture Manager, and had sent the request to the appropriate personnel to have it included in the budget discussions this year. She noted the Assistant position had been requested at 20 hours a week. The budget would be adopted in June 2019.

The Commission emphasized the need for assistance given the upcoming work associated with the percent for art in private development requirement and the associated tasks involved with that requirement.

VIII. Discussion and Vote on RACC Meeting Dates Poll

Chair Balisle reported that she was waiting on RACC Commissioners to finish the poll, which would be carried over to the next meeting agenda.

IX. Discussion and Vote for Officer Elections

Commissioner Kirk, as the RACC Committee for Officer Elections, recommended Jenny Balisle for Chair and Rosalie Fay Barnes for the Vice Chair of the RACC.

Chair Balisle presented her vision for the RACC in 2019, to:

- Strengthen the reporting structure for Arts & Culture (including the RACC and PAAC);
- Secure Assistant for Arts & Culture Manager;
- Protect NPA grantees from last-minute changes after an application becomes public with a full audit review prior to the next applications;
- Identify key RACC signature events and programs;
- Continue Richmond youth involvement;
- Social Media;
- RACC Calendar including the Richmond Arts Salon; and
- Outreach to the Mayor, City Manager, and City Council.

Commissioner Barnes expressed the desire that the RACC and PAAC meet jointly in a retreat format to strategize how to support the percent for private and public art development, to look at the Strategic Plan, and to work with the PAAC to create a vision to move toward the future in a cohesive way.

The RACC discussed the voting process and in response to a comment related to a lack of candidates, it was emphasized that every Commissioner had the opportunity to express an interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair, and Chair Balisle and Vice Chair Barnes were the only Commissioners who had expressed an interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair.

Commissioner Wiley advised for the record that pursuant to Richmond's Boards, Commissions, and Committees Handbook, the Chair was not required to follow Robert's Rules of Order but to follow Rosenberg's Rules of Order.

Motion by Commissioner Mizrahi, second by Commissioner Wiley to call for a vote to elect Jenny Balisle as Chair and Rosalie Fay Barnes as Vice Chair of the RACC for 2019, carried by a vote of hands, as follows:

Ayes: Balisle, Barnes, Kirk, Ledezma, Mizrahi, and Wiley
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Robinson, and Tamayo

X. Social Media Committee Update

Commissioner Kirk explained that it had been decided that the Google Calendar would be a good resource to identify the RACC and its core events in one place.

Chair Balisle read a vision statement for the use of the Google Calendar, and advised the item would be discussed at the next meeting when Commissioner Tamayo would be available.

XI. Richmond Arts Salon Update

Commissioner Wiley reported the next Richmond Arts Salon would be at Rigger's Loft on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. She asked that the invitations go out on March 15, and encouraged all Commissioners to attend this and other RACC events. She added that the Richmond Arts Salon would now occur quarterly and she envisioned the next Salon as a family outing.

XII. Public Art Advisory Committee Report

Chair Balisle explained that the PAAC had been working on the Public Artists Roster and it was the perfect example of why Ms. Seville needed an assistant, to help manage the roster. The Arts Brochure had been completed and would be included in the materials made available by the Planning Department. She emphasized the need to reconcile the process of how the Planning Department would identify projects that qualified for the percent for art and how the PAAC would be apprised of that information.

On the discussion, Ms. Seville explained that the developer would contact the Arts & Culture Manager, identify the vision and ideas for where the art requirement might be met, after which the PAAC would become involved and the Artists Roster would be used to identify potential projects. The PAAC would then advise, facilitate, and support the process.

Commissioners commented that was one of the reasons why the RACC and PAAC should meet jointly to discuss those and other issues.

Chair Balisle reported that she had heard rumors that the PAAC and the RACC did not get along, which she stressed for the record, was not the case.

Ms. Seville presented the Conceptual Design Proposal Plan for the Moody Underpass Park, a first run between the artist and the Ohlone Tribe after many weeks of discussions.

XIII. Staff Report

Ms. Seville highlighted her staff report and the Port Sculpture at Pt. Sheridan, reported the artist was \$100,000 over budget given a protracted construction process with respect to the port, and staff was working to help the city absorb the additional cost and help the artist complete the original vision.

In other matters, the Moody Underpass was coming along, it would be the first piece of public art in Richmond honoring Native Americans and native plants would be planted at the site and the safety of the plants for tribal use was being ascertained; the Community Conversations Grant mural was ongoing and there had been an extension of the grant; Richmond Writes! 2019 was in full swing with the submittal of over 460 poems; and the Richmond Plunge was open.

With respect to the Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) grants this year, Ms. Seville reported that of the 10 grants three had been given to non-profits and all had business licenses and insurance. Just before the release of the funds to the remaining seven grantees, it had been decided that all would need business licenses. She had advocated that the grantees be given their money minus the possible cost of the business license if, in fact, that would be required. She stated the issue was under discussion but noted that this was the first time in the 20-year history of the NPA program that business licenses had been required.

The Commission was outraged with the requirement for a business license, particularly since it had not been on the application, applicants had not been told in the workshop, it had not been included in the budgets, it was happening mid-stream in the process, it could include tax implications, was contrary to the intent and feel of the NPA program, and since the art projects enhanced city facilities and the city in general, the RACC did not see the need for a business license.

Katy Curl explained that business licenses were required by City ordinance, although through an oversight they had not been required of NPA grantees in the past. She clarified that the City Attorney had opined that the NPA grantees needed to follow the process. In response, Ms. Seville had sent an email and had taken exception to the City Attorney's opinion.

Ben Choi noted that the level of business license enforcement had increased considerably. He advised that he would follow up with the City Attorney to see if there could be an exception, and would place the issue on the City Council agenda for discussion.

The issue was to be placed on the next RACC meeting agenda to discuss an extension of the timeline for completion of the NPA grants, although it was clarified that some projects had to be completed before the end of the school year in May.

XIV. Announcements

Commissioner Mizrahi invited the RACC to the upcoming Sisters of Solidarity event.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 P.M. to the next meeting on March 28, 2019.