



## San Mateo County Arts Commission

Cindy Zheng, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Dildar Gill Pisani, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Sherrill Swan, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Karen Chew, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Lisa Steel, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Department of Parks  
455 County Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
David G. Holland, Director  
(650) 599-1393

**Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission  
Wednesday, May 27, 2009  
12 (noon) to 1:30 p.m.  
Room 401, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
455 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063**

### MINUTES

Chair Swan called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

#### **1. Welcome of Newly Appointed Commissioners Steel and Zheng**

Chair Swan welcomed Ms. Lisa Steel and Ms. Cindy Zheng, both of whom were recently appointed to the Arts Commission, representing District 5 and District 1 respectively.. The Commissioners each introduced themselves. Ms. Steel said she spent many years as a traveling wildlife photographer and has worked with Supervisor Tissier and Legislative Aide Chang on a number of neighborhood issues. Ms. Zheng said that her father is a painter, her mother is a piano teacher, and her brother is an architect. She said she studied to be a pediatric surgeon but changed fields and now works with Met Life providing financial planning services. She said she was very interested in arts education; in particular to making it possible for art students from China to come to this country to study art with transferable credits. Commissioner Gill Pisani said her background was in education; she said it was when she was working as a principal that the arts came under attack. She noted she writes fiction. She said on the Arts Commission her focus was creating synergy in the community in support of the arts. Chair Swan said she has been on the Arts Commission since it was established in 2002. She said she had retired from the business world and was now teaching at Beechwood Elementary School. She said the question was what the Commission could do with limited budget to support arts education. Commissioner Chew said she is a building designer and artist; she said that her interest was to do projects through the Commission that expanded and supported arts in the County.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Commission: Chew, Gill Pisani, Steel, Swan (Chair), Zheng  
Staff: Bennett, Holland, Tolmasoff  
Peninsula Arts Council: Waters

#### **3. Oral Communications**

There were none.

#### **4. Agenda Amendments**

There were none.

**5. Consideration of Minutes**

A. Regular Meeting of February 9, 2009

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Gill Pisani to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Gill Pisani said that a representative for the Youth Commission had attended the February 9, 2009 meeting and there was some discussion about a future youth representative on the Commission but further discussion was needed to determine times to meet as the Commission's meeting time was during school hours and the Youth Commissioners are high school students.

Staff will contact the representative for the Youth Commission to set up further discussion.

**6. Action Items**

A. Selection of Vice Chair

Commissioner Gill Pisani volunteered.

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Zheng to nominate Commissioner Gill Pisani for Vice Chair.

Nomination carried 5-0.

B. Consideration of Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

Commissioner Steel said her preference for meeting times was a time outside of rush hour traffic. Commissioner Gill Pisani asked about alternative meeting places. Director Holland said staff could find locations and noted that the time and location were flexible as long as it was consistent. Discussion ensued about engaging the youth on the Commission. Director Holland said that staff would work with the group that mentors youth commissioners and come back with a recommendation for the Commission closer to when school resumes. For the interim, consensus was that the Commission would meet 12 to 1:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month.

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Swan to meet 12 to 1:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month through July.

Motion carried 5-0.

C. Consideration of Subcommittee Vacancies

Chair Swan said the Marketing subcommittee had focused on the Artsopolis website, branding and partnering with the SMCVCB to promote the arts. Commissioner Gill Pisani noted that the Symposium subcommittee had shifted to the Networking and Support subcommittee. She said this committee's goal was to create linkages between the cities in the County and to build synergy to support and promote the arts in the County, noting that San Francisco and San Jose were empowered with money and staff for the arts. Commissioner Chew said the Networking and Support subcommittee sponsored an "Idea Party" and connected about 18 people in the arts from various locales in the County. She noted at that event the Peninsula Arts Council indicated they needed space for an upcoming event and were offered space by other attendees. She said the subcommittee is focusing on San Mateo County as an arts destination. Director Holland said the County did not have any policies for public art, donations of art, or provision for art. He said that the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission had policies which were in the

Commission's packets for their review. He said those addressed questions of public art and curation of art in public spaces. He said the Commission had been looking at different models for a Local Art Agency and how to make the County a destination for the arts. He said San Mateo County was different from San Jose, San Francisco or Santa Cruz County in that there are 21 cities in the County. He said that individually the cities within the County would not constitute a "destination for the arts," and among the cities an arts coalition with professional staff seemed logical. He said the question was how to get the communities together. He said the Networking and Support subcommittee was looking at how to get the core of artists/art supporters together and look at how to really promote the arts. He said that funding for the Arts Commission was limited noting it was \$60,000 total. He said he would like to meet with the Marketing subcommittee as Ms. Anne LeClair, SMCVCB, had some ideas about a campaign around the arts similar to the "Fresh as It Gets" campaign around restaurants. He said the challenge for the Arts Commission was there was no consensus within the art community as to what should be done or answers to "is there a need and what would that be?" He said the Commission's subcommittees were trying to define and answer those questions.

Commission consensus was that Commissioners Swan and Zheng will serve on the Arts Education subcommittee. Commissioner Gill Pisani suggested that there might be an arts night at the Redwood City Courthouse Plaza some evening that showcased youth, noting the outstanding nominations for Arts Educator of the Year. She said art in education was imperative. Commissioner Steel will work with Chair Swan on the Marketing subcommittee.

#### D. 2009/10 Budget and Work Plan

Director Holland said that the budget for 2008/09 included \$26,500 for Artsopolis for the cultural events website, \$20,500 for the curation of the three County galleries, and \$8,000 to support the Arts Commission. He said the work plan had included sponsoring a symposium for promoting arts and artists in San Mateo County which shifted to Networking and Support; marketing to increase awareness of Artsopolis and the Arts Commission, developing County Policy related to gallery art, outdoor art, and county-owned art, and exploring other spaces for galleries/curation. He said at one point the focus was on an art/cultural/environmental center at Coyote Point Recreation Area but the person who was the driving force for that center left Broadway by the Bay and relocated to another state. He said that the 2009/10 Budget would again be \$60,000 plus the \$8,000 to support the Arts Commission.

##### i. Consideration of 2009/10 Artsopolis Proposal for Services

Director Holland said there was no increase for Artsopolis' proposed website services for FY 2009/10. He noted that Ms. Anne LeClair, the CEO of SMCVCB, had proposed that the VCB could do the events calendar website. He suggested looking at Ms. LeClair's proposal for FY 2010/11.

Commission Action: M/S Gill Pisani/Chew to authorize an agreement for website services with Artsopolis for FY 2009/10 and direct staff to investigate the SMCVCB's proposal for a cultural events website services for possible agreement in FY 2010/11.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commission Action: M/S Gill Pisani/Steel to form a Budget subcommittee including Commissioners Gill Pisani and Steel, Director Holland and Ms. Tolmasoff.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

Commissioner Gill Pisani said she would contact Julie Ulmer with the Arts Education Alliance that Commissioners Swan and Zheng were the Arts Education subcommittee, and would email the information on the Arts Education Alliance to Commissioners Swan and Zheng.

## **8. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Chew said that there was now a satellite RAFT in San Mateo County, and said that the Commission's pursuit of establishing an Art Depot similar to RAFT in San Mateo County most likely was a strong impetus to that happening.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.