



Donald Mulliken, 1st District
Robin Rodricks, 2nd District
Sherrill Swan, 3rd District
Karen Chew, 4th District
Lisa Steel, 5th District
Karen Chee, Youth Commissioner

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SAN MATEO
COUNTY
ARTS
COMMISSION

**Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
555 County Center, Conference Room 1, 5th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Chair Rodricks called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Commissioners: Chee (Youth), Chew, Mulliken (Absent), Rodricks (Chair), Steel, Swan (Vice Chair)

Staff: Bennett, Porter, Tolmasoff

Chair Rodricks reported that newly appointed Arts Commissioner Donald Mulliken was not able to attend because of a prior commitment. She said she had spoken with him and he was very enthusiastic about serving on the Commission.

2. Agenda Amendments

Commissioner Steel said she would like to amend the agenda to allow the Commission to adopt the proposed budget, item 6.A. Director Porter advised that the Commission's budget of \$54,999 was included in the Parks' recommended budget for FY 2012-2013 and there was not a critical need for the Commission to vote upon their budget at this meeting. Also it was noted that there are Brown Act restrictions related to changing posted public meeting agendas.

3. Oral Communications

There were none.

4. Consideration of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of March 14, 2012

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Steel to approve the March 14, 2012 minutes;

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Regular Meeting of April 10, 2012

Commission Action: M/S Swan/Chew to approve the April 10, 2012 minutes.

Motion carried 5-0.

5. Reports

A. Curator's Report

Curator Silvestri reported on the current exhibits of mixed media in the Caldwell and Community Galleries. She brought signage she had developed to support branding of the exhibit spaces.

B. Youth Commissioner's Report

Youth Commissioner Chee reported on her Youth Commissioner project: San Mateo County's First Annual Laugh-A-Thon! It was held on Saturday October 22, 2011, from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. at the auditorium/multi-purpose room at Central Peninsula Church in Foster City. The Laugh-A-Thon showcased the two main branches of comedic theatre – improvisation and stand-up – and consisted of a mini marathon of three comedy shows: two improvisation shows and one standup comedy show. The money raised was donated to Samaritan House of San Mateo County, an organization that works to feed the hungry specifically in San Mateo County.

Youth Commissioner Chee organized the Laugh-A-Thon and publicized and invited everyone from across the County to attend. She reported assistance from friends, who volunteered with ushering, box office, and concessions noting there were five volunteers for the first show, seven for the second show and five for the last. She said the performers included the Aragon High School Improv Team, the H.I.T. Squad (aka the Hillsdale High School Improv Team), David Studebaker, Greg Asdourian, and BATS Improv. She said forty people attended the first show, twenty-eight the second show, and twenty-one the third show. She reported that the total cost of the event was \$1,326.56 and that a total of \$1,600.00 was raised and donated to Samaritan House (San Mateo). Youth Commissioner Chee thanked the Commission for their support of her project in the amount of \$1,326.56.

6. Action Items

A. Proposed FY 2012-2013 Budget

Commissioner Steel said the Commission had requested grants funding from the California Arts Council in the amount of \$12,000. She said the budget committee of Chair Rodricks and herself were presenting two versions of a FY 2012-2013 Budget with one including the grant funding and the other not including.

There was discussion about discontinuing the contract with Artsopolis for FY 2012-2013. Consultant Stevens said the site was hard to find using a search engine. Commissioner Chew agreed that people needed to know where to go to get to the site.

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She noted that local organizations and artists would still have the ability to go to the general website and post events for free.

There was discussion about working with the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau (SMCCVB) to develop an arts website. Ms. Tolmasoff asked if that information would be provided to all County residents or just to members. Commissioner Swan will contact the CEO of the SMCCVCB to talk about the website potential with them for the arts. She said one of the present weaknesses was publicity and getting information to a broad segment of the County, noting the lack of nominations for the 2012 Arts Educator of the Year.

B. Draft Strategic Plan (v3) and Next Steps

Consultant Louise Stevens joined the meeting via teleconference. The new plan was reviewed with the expectation of adopting at the next meeting. It was noted that there would not be a County Economic Development Department established in the near future and the Arts Commission would continue to be staffed through Public Works/Parks. Commissioners Steel and Swan both expressed concerns that there needed to be additional staffing to accomplish the Plan's objectives. There was consensus to apply for a \$12,000 grant from the California Arts Council to help pay for a part-time Grants Program Administrator. Commissioner Swan expressed concern that the Commission would be criticized if Plan objectives were not achieved. Consultant Stevens noted that this was a multi-year plan and suggested the Commission might establish short-term objectives toward the longer-term objectives. Commissioner Steel suggested finding a Grants Program Administrator as the first step and then look at creating arts education granting opportunities noting the existing County STEM program that provides grants for math and science education innovation. Consultant Stevens said she would provide skill sets and job description language to create a Request for Proposals for a Grants Program Administrator. Chair Rodricks said she would do the application for the California Arts Council grant with staff's assistance.

The Commission also noted that the skill sets of the members of the Commission were important in moving the Plan ahead. Chair Rodricks indicated she would send a skill-set survey to the Commissioners to determine the experiences and strengths of the current Commission.

The Commission's consensus was to have Commissioners Swan and Chew meet with the CEO of the SMCCVB to discuss website marketing of San Mateo County Arts.

7. Staff and Commission Reports

There were none.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.