



## ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**Date:** October 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City Council Chambers  
150 City Park Way  
Brentwood, CA 94513

Present: Rosalinda Grejsen  
Arthur Hermann  
Nina Koch  
Dr. Anna Szabados  
Angela Caprini

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Hermann called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call found the following members present; Chair Hermann, Vice Chair Szabados, Commissioner Caprini, Commissioner Grejsen and Commissioner Koch.

### **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Hermann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **C. PUBLIC COMMENTS (IN PERSON)**

NONE.

### **D. PRESENTATIONS**

Liberty High School Public Art and Design Academy (PADA) did a mock presentation in preparation for the next City Council Meeting.

### **E. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS, COMMITTEES, LIAISONS, AND STAFF**

Commissioner Koch:

- Reported that she saw Wicked.

- Watched the candidate forum and was excited that two of the candidates mentioned that they were interested in a performing arts center.

Commissioner Grejsen:

- Watched the candidate forum and was also excited at the mention of a performing arts center by the candidates.
- Visited the Grand Gallery in Oakland at Jack London Square where the Art Guild of the Delta has been invited to have a show.
- Assisted The Brentwood Rotary Club with the youth poster contest.
- Attended Oktoberfest which was very well attended.
- Reported that she is a guest artist at The Black Hawk Gallery showing some of her ceramic works as well as some older pieces mixed with her new functional ware.

Chair Hermann:

- Reported that he is still focusing on healing from his injury and doing physical therapy.

Vice Chair Szabados:

- Visited the Crocker Museum in Sacramento. Mentioned the huge variety of not just local artists but those from South and Central America.
- Attended UC Berkley Theater and listened to Marcus Wally, a musician in his seventies, and she felt his performance was so powerful.
- Spent some time at the Triton Museum in Silicon Valley. The exhibit featured Asian American artists with a range of different styles and felt she learned a lot.

Commissioner Caprini:

- Attended the pumpkin patch with her grandson.

Lindsay Pinell, Recreation Supervisor:

- Reported that the Public Art Wall application is up online and posted on social media, as well as having it in the Winter Guide.
- Gave an update that Thursday, October 24th is the reception for the Rotary Club Exhibit. Mentioned that they have 18 posters

hanging up and that they will be giving awards out as it is a poster contest.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- F.1 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 18, 2024

**Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 18, 2024**

Moved by: Dr. Anna Szabados

Seconded by: Angela Caprini

**Motion Approved**

**G. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- G.1 Interview of Poet Laureate Candidate, Maria Denney

Lindsay Pinell, Recreation Supervisor introduced the item as the interview of the Poet Laureate candidate Maria Denny. Stated that the City of Brentwood established the position of Poet Laureate in the year 2002 and that the duties of the Arts Commission is to promote programs for cultural enrichment of the City and diverse art disciplines. Designation of a Poet Laureate provides a means for Brentwood to confirm their value of literary arts as an enlightened and educated community. Brentwood has been without a Poet Laureate since 2020.

Chair Hermann thanked Maria Denny for being there and informed her that the Commission will not be ready to move forward and fill the position at tonight's meeting.

Commission then took turns asking the candidate their prepared questions.

The Commission thanked the candidate for her reading and states that he is appreciative of her being there and the Commission will let her know when they have reached a decision on the matter.

**Motion to make a decision on the poet laureate at a later date**

Moved by: Arthur Hermann

Seconded by: Nina Koch

Staff is recommending the Arts Commission Interview Maria Denney, applicant for the City of Brentwood's Poet Laureate Position.

### **Motion Approved**

#### G.2 Potential Poet Laureate Stipend

Chair Hermann suggests moving this item to November's meeting and deal with both the naming of the Poet Laureate and discussion of stipend since they are integrated from his perspective.

Commissioner Koch states that she would like to discuss the stipend today, and that she does not agree with changing the procedures of Poet Laureate this year given that it has been so long since the City has had a Poet Laureate. She does agree with opening the Poet Laureate for nomination next term.

### **Motion to bring back the Poet Laureate stipend and nominated applicants to the November meeting**

Moved by: Arthur Hermann

Seconded by: Rosalinda Grejsen

Staff is recommending the Arts Commission receive this informational staff report, discuss the topic of a possible stipend for future Poet Laureates as proposed by Commissioner Grejsen and provide staff with further direction on this item.

### **Motion Approved**

#### G.3 Bike Rack Project Update

Lindsay Pinell gave the Commission an update that Amy Tilly has stepped down as the Executive Director of the Downtown Brentwood Coalition. Her resignation may affect the project's progress so staff has recommended that the Commission table the topic for the remainder of the year. The Ad Hoc will reconvene in 2025 to discuss if the Commission wants to move forward with the project.

Commissioner Grejsen does not think the absence of Amy will have an impact on the research or moving forward with this project.

Vice Chair Szabados does not feel that the Arts Commission can take on this project without a partnership of some kind.

Chair Hermann responded that it would be no different than any other project that the Commission has taken on and that it is more of a bite sized project compared to other projects they have taken on. Asking the question, does the Commission want to fund the project?

Lindsay Pinell states that she is recommending that the Commission does not discuss or have this agenzized for the remainder of the year. She will meet with the Ad hoc committee in 2025 and bring back to be discussed further.

**Table item for the rest of 2024, the Ad HOC will meet and bring the item back in 2025**

Moved by: Dr. Anna Szabados

Seconded by: Arthur Hermann

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission receive and discuss this update on the Bike Rack Project.

**Motion Approved**

**H. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**H.1 NEW REQUEST(S)**

Commissioner Koch states that she has two future agenda items. First, she would like the Arts Commission to partner with other arts organizations in some type of workshop setting for continued learning. Second, she would like to discuss whether the Arts Commission can sponsor a cultural performance surrounding the Poet Laureate when the Commission is not allowed to sponsor anything that is not visual art.

Chair Hermann states that he believes that whoever wrote the document made a mistake and that the guidelines should then be changed to reflect the reality of the Arts Commission's scope in that regard.

Thien Nguyen, Recreation Manager states that he does not believe that this needs to be a future agenda item. There just needs to be clarification on the document in regards to the sponsorship of the future Poet Laureate instead of discussion.

Commissioner Grejsen has a staff inquiry on clarification for what can be presented on the agenda. As well as to discuss the new organization of Contra Costa Arts County (CCAC) so that the Commission has a more flexible way to discuss and understand what that new organization is and have the opportunity to discuss that in depth. Commissioner Grejsen also wants to invite the organization to a meeting to give the Commission a presentation on the work that they have been doing.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved/seconded by Szabados/Hermann to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners in favor.

Moved by: Dr. Anna Szabados

Seconded by: Arthur Hermann

**Motion Approved**