
THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

JUNE 6, 2024
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Wondercheck at 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Vice Chair Zuckerman.

ROLL CALL

= Present = Absent

Commissioners

- Charlene Ashendorf
- Fisher Derderian
- Erica Lucia
- Alisa Ochoa
- Allison Mann
- Debora Wondercheck, Chair
- Heidi Zuckerman, Vice Chair

City Staff

- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Ashley Thomas, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II

PRESENTATION

1. NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (NMUSD) – ARTS REPORT

Tamara Fairbanks from NMUSD presented.
Commission commended NMUSD updates.

2. TESSA – PRIVATE PROPERTY MURAL PERMIT

Economic Development Administrator Dan Inloes

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Commissioner Ashendorf inquired about the save feature for an application.
Commissioner Lucia inquired about the turnaround time for submissions with the new system.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Fitzgerald: Introduced himself as the County Department of Education Arts Coordinator and provided Prop 28 information.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ashendorf: Thanked City Council for supporting the cultural arts master plan budget. Attended the Mother's Day event at the Costa Mesa Women's Club funded by the Commission. Encouraged the public to visit the Costa Mesa Senior Center to see the exhibit by Jennifer Bloomfield. Inquired about Commission role with art related projects in the City.

Commissioner Ochoa: Participated in this year's Love Costa Mesa day and thought it was a great way to connect with Council, staff, and the community. Looks forward to learning about budget for next fiscal year.

Commissioner Mann: Highlighted the butterfly garden at Marina View Park and Songs of the Canyon event at Canyon Park.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES

04/04/2024 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

MOTION/SECOND: Vice Chair Zuckerman made a motion to approve the April 4, 2024 minutes /Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: None

Abstained: Commissioner Lucia

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. REVIEW POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Lucia inquired what would be the goal or number of applications to receive by reopening the application and casting a wider net to all of Orange County.

Vice Chair Zuckerman inquired about application submissions received and poet level status.

Commissioner Derderian provided insight as a panelist and spoke on behalf of panelist experience and the engagement that took place with the candidates.

Commissioner Ashendorf advocated the poet selected should be a Costa Mesa resident and referenced how the City of Anaheim holds the requirement. Requested clarification on the bilingual requirement.

Commissioner Mann supported Commissioner Ashendorf's request for having poet be a Costa Mesa resident. Suggested giving Costa Mesa applicants a preference over other applicants.

Commissioner Ochoa expressed that bilingual requirement should not be strict but classified as a preference. Shared outreach opportunities in the coming months.

Commissioner Ashendorf inquired if the application can request the applicant to express their connection to Costa Mesa and the community.

Commissioner Derderian gave Commissioners insight regarding questions that were asked to applicants and expectation for this program. Voiced that selected poet would be an active participant within the community.

Commissioner Ashendorf inquired about program application timeline and possible conflicts with season schedule.

Chair Wondercheck mentioned that Arts Orange County could assist with posting a call through for an artist in order to reach more individuals across the county.

Commissioner Ashendorf expressed the love for eclectic members on the board and opportunity to raise a Poet Laureate within the city.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Wondercheck moved to adjusting the application to start in August and end in September/ Seconded by Commissioner Lucia.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Ochoa, Commissioner Lucia, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: Commissioner Ashendorf, Vice Chair Zuckerman

Abstained: Commissioner Mann

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 4-2-1

Discussion ensued regarding specific criteria of the application.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Ashendorf moved to revise that the application stating, "Poet Laureate will be live or work in Costa Mesa"/ Seconded by Commissioner Mann.

The motion **failed** by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa

Nays: Commissioner Derderian, Vice Chair Zuckerman

Abstained: Commissioner Lucia, Chair Wondercheck

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 3-2-2

Commissioner Lucia and Chair Wondercheck expressed confusion on criteria requirements.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Wondercheck moved to extend the application to Orange County with preference to poet who either lives or works in Costa Mesa and stating the bilingual poet is preferred but not required.

[No vote to motion was initiated and item was paused. Meeting moved to next agenda item.]

2. UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM REVIEW

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Wondercheck moved to make the motion that Art Specialist make changes to the utility box application, including the adjustment of the cost of the utility to \$3,000 with discretionary costs or non-profits, and revising the specification of commercial use/ Seconded by Commissioner Lucia.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7-0

[*Moved back to NEW BUSINESS 1. REVIEW POET LAUREATE PROGRAM item*]

NEW BUSINESS

1. REVIEW POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Ashendorf moved to revise that the application be open to applicants who either live or works in Costa Mesa and striking bilingual requirement/Seconded by Commissioner Mann.

The motion **failed** by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf

Nays: Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 1- 6

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Derderian moved to edit the Poet Laureate handbook to read in addition, an ideal candidate will: have literary works, have proven track record of community engagement, and live or work within Costa Mesa, and striking bilingual requirement/ Seconded by Vice Chair Zuckerman.

Commissioner Lucia clarified the motion is including that criteria, six and expanding upon it to provide preference for someone who lives at work in Costa Mesa and strikes requirement for bilingual.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: Commissioner Ashendorf

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 6-1

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. ARTS & CULTURE STAFF REPORT

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Chair Wondercheck recognized June as African American Music Month and shared details of Juneteenth events happening in Orange County.

Parks and Community Services Director, Brian Gruner, gave more insight regarding items coming forward to both the Planning and Arts Commissions.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Wondercheck adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

NEXT REGULAR ARTS COMMISSION MEETING: Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

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