



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Culture and Arts Commission January 20, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Rohlfs called the meeting of the Culture and Arts Commission to order at 6:33 p.m. Commissioners Present: Chair Melissa Rohlfs, Vice Chair Pamela Madden, Pamela Gamble, Jeanne George (late), and Janet Monaghan. Absences: Tobin. Staff Present: Mottola and Wallace.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Madden led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** No changes.
4. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Minutes from November 18, 2021. **MSC Madden/George.** Accepted 5-0.
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. Receive Presentation From Steve Okamoto, Vice-President of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee – Steve Okamoto presented. He introduced the President of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, Doug Yamamoto. They explained the impact of Executive Order 9066 on Japanese Americans. The committee was formed 6 – 7 years ago to create a memorial to the 8,000 Japanese Americans who were detained at Tanforan in the detention centers. The memorial will be located outside the San Bruno BART Station. The committee wants to make sure the community understands that they were put in the detention centers not for what they did, but for who they were. The committee is raising money to build this memorial. The groundbreaking will be next month. Website is [www.tanforanmemorial.org](http://www.tanforanmemorial.org). More donations are needed to finish the memorial.
  - b. Approve Recommendation to City Council to Fund an Appropriation of \$50,000 from the City Art Fund in Support of the Construction of a Tanforan Memorial at the San Bruno BART Station – **Superintendent Wallace** reviewed the staff report. The balance in the City Art Fund is \$393,885 as of January 3, 2022.

**Chair Rohlfs** asked why staff brought this in front of the commission at this time while there are many other projects that the Commission has talked about funding and are

equally important to the entire community rather than one specific segment of the community in one specific area. **Superintendent Wallace** explained that the other projects would be staff lead and staff driven, and we are very short-staffed. Finding the time to be able to devote to these types of projects is difficult. This money would be going to the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee. It would be up to them to put it into their project. The memorial project is almost to the finish line so if the Commission doesn't participate now, it will be too late in the future.

**Commissioner Gamble** asked if the plaque on the monument would say San Bruno Culture and Arts Commission donated \$50,000. **Superintendent Wallace** stated it would say The City of San Bruno. If approved tonight, this will move on to the City Council to approve.

Discussion about this project being a worthy cause, the location of the monument, and the idea about putting something in the local paper to state that the commission was a part of the project.

**Director Mottola** stated that once this goes to Council and the recommendation moves forward, we can spread the news to provide recognition and exposure to educate on what the Culture & Arts Commission's purpose is. This is a very significant cultural event that happened in San Bruno and we are commemorating it so we don't forget this lesson and never have it happen again. The City Art Fund is money that belongs to the City. The Culture & Arts Commission as well as the other boards, commissions, and committees advise the City Council and they will look to your recommendation. They (City Council) have the authority to release these funds.

**Superintendent Wallace** stated this would be an accomplishment for the commission and would be a highlight in the annual report in October to Council.

**MSC George/Monaghan. 4-1.**

- c. Approve Recommendation to City Council to Fund an Appropriation from the City Art Fund not to Exceed \$2,600 to Sponsor a Community Services Department Juneteenth Event – **Superintendent Wallace** reviewed the staff report. Staff will look to members in the African American Community to advise on how to appropriately put on a Juneteenth event to make sure it is respectful and authentic.

**MSC Monaghan/Madden. 5-0.**

- d. Approve 2022 Meeting Schedule of the Commission – **Superintendent Wallace** reviewed the staff report.

**MSC Monaghan/Madden 5-0.**

- e. Conduct Election of Commission Officers for 2022 – **Superintendent Wallace** explained that according to the by-laws of the commission, new officers are elected the first meeting of the calendar year. **Commissioner George** nominated Commissioner Madden for chair. **Commissioner Gamble** nominated Commissioner Monaghan for vice-chair.

**MSC Gamble/George. 5-0.**

**9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

**Commissioner Madden** asked about the San Mateo Avenue holiday window decorating contest. **Superintendent Wallace** stated that 23 businesses participated. First Impression Salon won both the People's Choice Award and the Judge's Award.

**Commissioner Monaghan** stated that the holiday tree was spectacular. Other commissioners agreed.

10. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

**Superintendent Wallace** stated that last night was the Chinese New Year event sponsored by the commission. It was a success.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business to be conducted, **Chair Rohlf**s adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.