

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Section 54954.2 of the Government Code of the State of California, a Regular Meeting of the **TRACY ARTS COMMISSION** is hereby called for:

Date/Time: **Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**
(or as soon thereafter as possible)

Location: **Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, Visual Arts 1**
715 Central Ave., Tracy, CA

Government Code Section 54954.3 states that every public meeting shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the Tracy Arts Commission on any item, before or during consideration of the item, however, no action shall be taken on any item not on the agenda.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Items from the Audience - *In accordance with Procedures for Preparation, Posting and Distribution of Agendas and the Conduct of Public Meetings, adopted by Resolution 2008-140, any item not on the agenda brought up by the public at a meeting shall be automatically referred to staff. If staff is not able to resolve the matter satisfactorily, the member of the public may request a Tracy Arts Commission member to sponsor the item for discussion at a future meeting.*
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on August 14, 2012
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business - None
7. New Business - None
8. Items from the Commission
9. Items from Staff
10. Items from the Audience
11. Adjournment

POSTED: November 8, 2012

The City of Tracy complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes all reasonable accommodations for the disabled to participate in public meetings. Persons requiring assistance or auxiliary aids in order to participate should call City Hall at (209) 831-6000, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Any materials distributed to the majority of the Tracy Arts Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Cultural Arts Division located at 715 Central Avenue, Tracy, CA during normal business hours.

**TRACY ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:**
 - a. Present: Anne Marie Fuller; Tricia Hand; Marlene Jones; Nicole McClain; Taranjit Sandhu; Mercedes Silveira
 - b. Absent: Grace Paget
 - c. Staff Present: Jeffrey Haskett, Cultural Arts Manager-Performing Arts
 - d. Recorded By: Stacey Merjil, Administrative Assistant II
3. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Ray Morelos introduced himself.
4. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM July 10, 2012**

Amend item 8 to say Commissioner Hand visited the Heath Ceramics factory in Sausalito

 - a. Motion: Commissioner Hand
 - b. Second: Commissioner McClain
 - c. Abstain:
 - d. Vote: Approved as amended

Civic Art Special Meeting Minutes July 10, 2012

 - a. Motion: Commissioner McClain
 - b. Second: Commissioner Jones
 - c. Abstain:
 - d. Vote: Approved
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Determine if a Special Meeting is needed for September:** The September 11, 2012 meeting was cancelled at the July 10, 2012 meeting, since it was scheduled for the same day as the Willie Nelson performance. Commissioner Silveira made a motion that no Special Meeting be held in September. Commissioner Hand seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The next regular meeting will be held on October 9, 2012.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS 2012 MUSIC IN THE PARK:** Commissioner Jones commented on the kick off concert at McDonald Park. The music was great and the neighborhood response was very good. Although this was the first time a concert had been held at McDonald Park it proved to be a great way to kick off the series. Commissioner Jones added she wouldn't have a problem kicking off the 2013 series there next year.

Commissioner Hand commented on the positive feedback she had heard on all the musicians who performed at the concerts and agreed the subcommittee that selected the bands did an excellent job.

Commissioner McClain stated there has been a positive community response and she had enjoyed the concerts she attended.

Commissioner Silveira thanked Jeffrey Haskett, Cultural Arts Manager – Performing Arts, William Wilson, Cultural Arts Manager – Visual Arts, Leon Churchill, City Manager, and Maria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager, for approving the recommendation to hold the first concert at McDonald Park. There was a positive response from the families who attended, some of which were 3rd and 4th generation residents. A handball tournament was held. Angel Hernandez took the opportunity to train handball students to participate at the local, state and national level. So many compliments were received regarding the concert. McDonald Park is a positive and safe environment due to the families who take care of the park. Commissioner Silveira commended the City for bringing the concert to McDonald Park and asked if it would be possible to hold future concerts at the park. Commissioner Silveira also suggested holding the concerts at different City parks.

Commissioner Silveira read a letter into the record dated August 14, 2012, addressed to William Wilson, Cultural Arts Director, and Jeff Haskett, Cultural Arts Manager, and signed by Commissioner Silveira. The letter included Commissioner Silveira's comments on the success of the concert, the police and fire presence and some perceived safety concerns with McDonald Park.

Commissioner Fuller stated that with regard to the presence of the public safety officers Commissioners can invite anybody to be a part of a public event. Commissioners do not need approval to invite Police Officers or the Fire Department to events. Commissioner Fuller stated she extends invitations to everyone, including the Mayor and the City Council, and thanks those who attend.

Commissioner Silveira asked if the city officials who attended were given the proper recognition.

Staff will check on the procedure regarding invitations to future events.

Commissioner Fuller stated she had extended an invitation to the Fire Department since she understood their policy is that they want to attend every public event.

Commissioner Silveira stated her perception was that additional police reinforcements were present based on the location of the park.

Commissioner Fuller stated the same invitation is extended for all concerts. The police attend some of the concerts but not all of them.

Commissioner Jones commented that she felt embarrassed that there were so many police at the park. Those who attended were just families visiting the park.

Commissioner McClain stated at a previous meeting the Commission had discussed inviting many different groups to come to the kickoff, including veterans' wives.

Commissioner Fuller added Military Moms were invited and they attended. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts were invited because it was Flag Day; unfortunately, they did not

attend. Commissioner Fuller stated she was unable to control who shows up and who doesn't.

Audience Member Morales, speaking as the President of the Southside Community Organization, thanked the Tracy Arts Commission for having the foresight to hold the 2012 kickoff concert at McDonald Park. It would be helpful if events could continue to be held in that community, because of Tracy's history. It is a sensitive issue and has always been a sensitive issue in that neighborhood, so when events like the concert are held there, it changes the perception, not only in the neighborhood, but also with the people who live there and with the people who grew up there. Mr. Morales stated he was a product of that neighborhood and knew the history. As activities are brought into that area, it is very helpful in breaking down the barriers. The Southside Community Organization is working to do that. Mr. Morales commended the Commission for bringing the concert to McDonald Park, but suggested the Commission be sensitive to the history of Tracy, and to the people who live there.

Commissioner Hand stated she was touched by the sincerity of those who thanked the Commission for holding the kickoff event at McDonald Park. Commissioner Hand stated she hadn't thought it would be such a big deal; she had been thinking more about the logistics of moving the concert from park to park.

Commissioner Jones stated she too had heard comments from those attending the concert regarding how much they loved it and appreciated the fact the Commission had brought the concert to the park. The comments she heard made her feel as if the Commission had done something positive for the neighborhood, and Commissioner Jones added she thought it would be fun to do it again.

Commissioner Sandhu stated he had brought up the idea of having the concerts at different parks. Even though there were issues with the stage and the lighting the Commission's efforts to bring the concert to McDonald Park were appreciated. Commissioner Sandhu stated those attending the concert wanted to see other concerts held at McDonald Park. The misunderstanding regarding inviting public safety should be discussed at a future meeting. Commissioner Sandhu stated the Commission needs to work together to solve the problem.

Audience Member Morales stated with regard to the Police Department the City has a new Chief of Police and a new method of policing. Some of the methods the police used in the past made people in the community feel unwelcome. However, that is no longer the case, although there is still a need to be sensitive to what has gone on in the past.

During her opening speech Commissioner Fuller recognized Military Moms, Bob Elliott, a Council Member and retired Colonel, and Captain Espinoza. Commissioner Fuller stated she thanked Captain Espinoza personally and not the Police Department as a whole.

Staff recommended that in the future Commissioners allow staff to send invitations to the various departments for Commission events. Discussion will continue at the October 9, 2012, meeting.

Commissioner Silveira stated that during the past three years the South Side Community Organization has worked with the Council, the Police Department and others to build a

positive image for their community. Progress has been made. However, comments that were made and actions that were taken, regardless of whether they were intentional or accidental, have taken us a step backwards. Each community is different and different cultures have to be respected if we want harmony in this community.

Commissioner Silveira asked the audience members for comments.

Audience Member McManus stated he agreed with Raymond Morelos and Commissioner Silveira. Residents of South Side were happy the concert would be held at McDonald Park, and everybody had a wonderful time. However, the comments that were made together with the police presence made some people feel uncomfortable and others were offended. Mr. McManus added we need to work together for a more positive outcome.

Audience Member Hashimoto stated he grew up in Tracy and heard a lot of negativity regarding McDonald Park. When he began working in the community he found it to be quite different. Whatever happened is in the past. If there is going to be another concert at the park Mr. Hashimoto suggested everyone work together as a team to make it happen.

Audience Member McManus stated he grew up on South Side and attended St. Bernard's school. Mr. McManus added he had worked at the court house and treated everyone with respect. Working at the court house gave him a broader view of Tracy.

Commissioner Hand suggested that when discussions begin for next year's concerts the Commission starts with McDonald Park. If the Westside Association could partner with the Commission and help organize a larger concert with additional activities that would make this event even better.

Commissioner McClain made a motion that before a special audience attends a specific event that the Commission agrees to discuss it before hand and vote.

Staff Haskett stated the item will be added to the next meeting's agenda so the Commission can develop a protocol for inviting elected officials, or special guests.

Commissioner Silveira asked Audience Member Gouveia, a Parks Commissioner, if he was aware of the statistics for McDonald Park and other parks with regard to safety.

Audience Member Gouveia responded McDonald Park is rarely mentioned. Most of the difficulties are on the West side.

Commissioner Silveira asked if the information could be produced at the next meeting.

Commissioner Fuller reminded the new Commissioners that they could not endorse a particular candidate running for office. Since Arts Commissioners are often in the public forum an endorsement by any Commissioner might sway some voters.

Staff Haskett reminded the Commissioners that they are all acting as one when they are out in the community. Consideration should be given to the fact that any action taken by

one Commissioner represents the entire Arts Commission. Staff Haskett asked if there was any further discussion on the other concerts.

Commissioner Fuller stated at the next meeting she would have a response to the letter read into the record earlier this evening by Commissioner Silveira.

Commissioner Hand stated the concerts were very successful. The Commission came up with some teachable moments which will help a Commission goal – to better connect with the community.

Commissioner Jones agreed with Commissioner Hand. The Commission put on a good series this year, although the quality of some bands was a little bit disappointing. Commissioner Jones stated that in her opinion the Cajun band and the band that played at McDonald Park were two of the better bands.

Commissioner Silveira questioned why the City stage was not at McDonald Park.

Staff Haskett explained the City stage cannot be driven on the grass.

Commissioner Sandhu asked if there was any way to change the location of the City stage at Lincoln Park since it was facing west and the sun was in the performers' eyes.

Staff Haskett explained the stage position is dictated by the location of the platform. The stage can face West or South. If it faces south, there is no shade for residents.

Commissioner Sandhu asked if it was necessary to place it near the bathrooms.

Staff Haskett responded, yes, because that is where it is safe to place the stage. The stage weighs several tons and if it doesn't follow a certain path to the platform that was built next to the restrooms it will destroy plumbing and cause bigger problem which could cost a lot of money. With regard the problem of the sun for the performers, unfortunately that is part of the gig.

Commissioner Sandhu stated that overall it was a successful concert series and added he was thinking of bringing his cultural program to the stage next year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hand regarding attendance at the concerts, Staff Haskett responded the average from previous years is about 300.

Commissioner Fuller asked if there was any further discussion before moving onto the next item.

Commissioner Sandhu thanked Commissioner Silveira and Audience Member Gouveia for attending the candle light vigil at the Sikh temple.

- B. **DISCUSS THE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FURTHER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff gave an update on the Budget Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee was given a review of the budget for the last year. Staff took the actual costs of the concerts which is what most of the expenses were since the multicultural event did not happen, and

pushed them forward as if we were to continue the same event for FY 12/13. There is \$4,500 less and the subcommittee needs to decide if it wants to make up the difference or have fewer concerts. The end result was to recommend one less concert, so there would be five and a deficit of \$1,400 leaving the Commission to find sponsorship for the \$1,400.

Commissioner McClain stated funding would need to be in place by February 12, 2013. The Commission discussed asking a business for the entire amount. Commissioner McClain offered to write a grant for the entire series. The Commission may not get the full amount but should request the full sponsorship amount.

The Subcommittee recommended a sponsorship would require City Council action. Staff would be willing to write a staff report for the \$1,400. The donation account currently totals \$1,437.40. The total cost for five concerts is approximately \$15,000.

The Commission discussed cutting back and agreed on quality over quantity. The Commission supported Commissioner McClain's offer to write a grant for the Music in the Park series.

8. **ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:** The Commission engaged in a brief discussion of activities attended by the Commissioners since the last meeting.
9. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**
 - a. **Cultural Arts Manager Haskett:** The season has been announced. Season tickets are available for Season Subscribers who will receive a 15% discount. The general public will be able to purchase individual tickets beginning August 20, 2012.
10. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Walter Gouveia stated he appreciated the Music in the Park series and had attended three performances. Mr. Gouveia mentioned a problem with a bathroom at the McDonald Park concert which was quickly resolved by staff.
11. **ADJOURN:**
 - a. Motion: Commissioner McClain
 - b. Second: Commissioner Sandhu
 - c. Vote: Unanimous
 - d. Time: 8:30 p.m.