

Napa County Arts & Culture Commission (NCACC)
Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2009 • 4-6pm
Napa County Transportation & Planning Agency (NCTPA)
707 Randolph Street, Suite 100 • Napa

Present: Lee Block (LB), Sue Wollack (SW), Judith Caldwell (JC), Yvonne Henry (YH), Diane Damé Shepp (DDS), Margrit Biever Mondavi (MBM), Jon Lail (JL), T Beller (TB)
Staff: Michelle Williams (MW), Kristina Young (KY)

Absent: Debra Lee Hodge

I. Meeting called to order at 4:00pm

II. Public Comment

No public comment

III. Approval of Previous Meeting (January 15, 2009) Minutes

Minutes were approved with one correction from TB: on #7, change "other possible locations include the Borreo Building" to "other possible locations we plan to explore: Borreo, Copia, etc."

IV. Report for April Meeting: Richard Mendelson (LB)

LB reported that Mr. Mendelsohn is happy to come and talk to the NCACC in April about zoning in the valley. He will also be able to discuss the organization of groups such as the NCACC.

V. Discussion of Draft Public Art Ordinance, FAQ & Matrix (MW)

MW handed out the FAQ, a 2 page information sheet about Public Art made by Arts Council Napa Valley (ACNV) staff as part of the public outreach & education plan. It will soon be posted on the ACNV website soon. It was also posted to the Americans for the Arts Public Art listserv, for other communities to use. LB would like to increase local distribution of the FAQ. MW will look in to publishing it in *The Register*.

Draft Ordinance NCACC Comments

(Note: MW went through the draft line by line for NCACC comment. Specific draft components are recorded here in bold type if they received significant comment or discussion.)

- **1% Fee applies to non-residential development, city capital facilities, projects starting at \$250k, commercial portion of mixed use:** JC reported that Yountville would like to develop a private fund requirement of residents. LB also wants to take this component under serious consideration, believing we should place more the responsibility on the public and less of the burden on developers.
- **1% Fee Exemptions include "some Non-Profits":** SW asked if the Public Art Master Plan will further clarify this and suggested non-profits possibly pay a lower fee.
- **City Contributions to the Public Art Fund:** MW reported that the City of Napa will add directly to fund.
- **Collection of Public Art Fee:** Commissioners discussed the importance of collection timing. Should the fees be paid while the construction process is underway? LB asked if this could be a hardship for developers. DDS stated that in order to fully integrate the art into each project, the fees need to be collected early in the process. JL suggested that the fees be broken out into installments instead of collected upfront in full. The payment timing could also be made dependent on occupancy, or divided over the length of construction. TB reminded the group that the artists need to be paid up front and that this fee is relatively small in comparison to other fees developers pay (such as water,

- roads, etc.). DDS suggested it would be better for developers to pay the fee in beginning when construction costs are estimated, as the fee does not change if costs go up.
- **Review & Approval of Art:** The City will establish an 'Art Advisory Committee'. The City Manager will make the selection of committee members. A separate committee will be established for each public art project. YH suggested that a representing commissioner should be present in each committee as well, especially as the City Manager of certain jurisdictions (such as Calistoga) will be relying a relatively small pool of committee candidates. The presence of the commissioners will also provide continuity as they can coordinate projects among whole county, and provide a county-wide vision.
 - **"Artist" Definition:** Commissioners would like to expand the definition, currently stating that an artist will be a person with an "established reputation". They don't want to discourage emerging artists.
 - **Fee Utilization:** The draft ordinance states that part of the fee collected will be used for 'ongoing maintenance' as well as 'program administration'. MW reported that both were reported sorely needed by participants in ACNV's benchmark survey on public art programs. YH asked how artists can estimate maintenance. DDS explained that usually public artists estimate it at 3-5% of the piece's value. All commissioners recognized the importance of this issue. MW explained that the administration funding would go to city staff.

MW will report the NCACC's official comments on the draft ordinance to the city after the commissioners look them over (via email) for any final corrections and comments.

TB feels there is a general lack of awareness and recognition of the NCACC around the county. She would like MW to preface their comments to the city with information about the NCACC, their role and mission.

VI. NCACC Relationship to NCTPA & Next Steps

The NCACC has not yet made a decision about their future relationship with NCTPA. The commissioners are considering if they could better serve the community under the umbrella of the Napa County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

TB, DDS, LB had a recent meeting with Jim Krider, NCTPA Board President, but there has been no movement yet.

DDS made a motion that the NCACC should move from the NCTPA in a positive manner and that the move be contingent upon the NCACC's acceptance by the County. This motion was later rescinded.

Commissioners plan to do the following before their next monthly meeting:

- 1) An NCACC committee will discuss (via email) the NCACC message about this transition to ensure a common, positive message.
- 2) LB will set up a meeting with Jim Krider and Paul Price, NCTPA's new ED to discuss making a transition to the county in the next 3-4 months and to ask for their assistance. TB and MW may also attend this meeting.
- 3) In the meantime, commissioners will also work to get the issue on the BOS's future consent calendar.
- 4) They will also each meet with each of the eight County Supervisors to ask for their assistance with the process.

List of Proposed Meetings with Supervisors:

- 1) Diane Dillon – JL, SW, YH, MBM; JL will set up meeting

- 2) Bill Dodd & Mark Luce – TB, JC; JC will set up meeting
- 3) Brad Wagenknecht – DDS (after 2/26)
- 4) Keith Caldwell – LB

MW told commissioners that she may be available to attend any of these meetings as well.

VII. Current NCACC Chair

LB offered to step down as NCACC Chair; however the commissioners unanimously declared they would like LB to stay on in this role. The community recognizes him as their leader and it is important to have a continuum.

VIII. Other Business

LB brought up the fact that zoning does impact local artists. He believes that this is another important public policy issue that the NCACC should continue to think about. YH reminded commissioners that it is a multi faceted issue and that the NCACC needs to broaden its research about how zoning impacts the entire community.

JC told commissioners they were invited to see the Bardessono in Yountville. JC will confirm that the NCACC could meet there for a tour one hour before their next meeting. If confirmed, it will take place on March 2 at 3pm (tour) and 4pm (meeting).

TB announced that on Saturday Feb 21, a Napa Valley Arts and Lectures, in partnership with the Commonwealth Club, event will take place at the Napa Valley Opera House. TB asked commissioners to help spread the word about the special event featuring a conversation about this year's Oscar nominated films with Chronicle staff writer Mick Lasalle. For a long time, TB has wanted to increase the Commonwealth Club's presence in Napa Valley.

NCACC meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.