

## **Napa County Arts & Culture Commission (NCACC) • Meeting Minutes**

March 2, 2009 (4-6pm)

Bardessono Hotel Banquet Room • 6526 Yount Street, Yountville

**Commissioners Present:** Chair, Lee Block (Napa), T Beller (At Large), Judith Caldwell (Yountville), Yvonne Henry (Calistoga), Diane Damé Shepp (Napa County), Sue Wollack (St. Helena)

**Staff Present:** Michelle Williams (ACNV), Kristina Young (ACNV)

**Absent:** John Lail (At Large), Margrit Biever Mondavi (At Large)

**Public Present:** Lisa Batto (Napa Chamber of Commerce, and private citizen)

### **4:06pm: Meeting Called to Order, Adjourned 6:00pm**

#### **I. Public Comment**

Lisa Batto attended the meeting as a member of public to commend the work done by the NCACC. She commented that in order to following step three of the Cultural Plan (Establish Effective Arts Policies), Commissioners will need to “think out of box”, especially in terms of passing a Public Arts Ordinance. She advises not putting the onus on one group to pay for the public art, suggesting the ordinance be written as beneficial for developers, such as the fee be considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes in the same way Napa is rewriting the inclusionary fee with incentives for developers to build low income housing. She suggested more outreach to developers and community representatives to build more consensus about the ordinance.

Speaking as a Chamber of Commerce representative, Lisa said after the last presentation (by Michelle Williams and Chandra Cerrito) that she and the Chamber’s Legislation Action Committee are not opposed to public art, per se, and they are ready to work on the ordinance with the NCACC.

#### **II. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as modified.

#### **III. Summary of NCACC Meeting with Supervisor, Bill Dodd & Councilmember and NCTPA Board Chair, Jim Krider (Michelle Williams)**

Michelle Williams (MW) reported on a positive meeting with Commissioners Judith Caldwell (JC), Sue Wollack (SW), and Lee Block (LB) as well as Supervisor Bill Dodd (BD) and Councilmember Jim Krider (JK). After hearing about the NCACC’s challenges over the past year, BD was committed to help. The four major points of discussion were:

- 1) The NCACC’s lack of staffing (separate from ACNV). BD said he will find county staff to work with NCACC to assist with the clerical duties ACNV has been handling this past year.
- 2) The NCACC will now have a standing time quarterly on the NCTPA agenda to give a report of their activities and concerns.
- 3) If there is a time sensitive issue that a Commissioner needs to bring to the NCTPA, they will be able to do so at any regular monthly NCTPA meeting.
- 4) BD will also talk with the new NCTPA lawyers to discuss whether or not the Commission is indeed a commission, rather than a “committee” of the NCTPA

Paul Price is the new Executive Director of NCTPA and he seems committed to working with the NCACC in more collaborative way.

BD recommended that the NCACC stay with NCTPA. If they become a County Commission, then they can only work with the unincorporated areas, not the individual cities, and they can only report back once a year to the NCTPA.

Both JK and BD said they will find money for business cards for the NCACC and that they will both work to help strengthen the NCACC's relationship with NCTPA.

JC will call BD in mid March to follow up.

#### **IV. NCACC Priorities (Lee Block)**

Lee Block asked the commissioners to prioritize the NCACC's areas of focus. Commissioners agreed to the following:

- 1) PUBLIC POLICY
  - a) Public Art
    - 1) Insurance (as sub category)
    - b) Zoning
- 2) ARTS EDUCATION

#### **V. NCACC Bylaws Review**

After reviewing their current bylaws, Commissioners made the following recommendations:

- Because the NCACC is a commission and not a committee, DDS recommended that the bylaws should reflect this language. They would need to be changed in two places.
- Commissioners also agreed that they should hold staggered terms, instead of the way it is now worded in the bylaws.
- In the first paragraph, LB would like to remove the "and" between business and philanthropic leaders.
- LB also changed the wording for this sentence: "Recommend, promote and expand public awareness of the art and arts opportunities." Adding "the", and striking "quality" and "possible".
- Under Article #9 (Admin Support), Lisa Batto recommended commissioners take out "0.02 persons per year" and first find out what NCTPA are willing to give
- Under Article #8, about individual commissioners not declare anything at a particular city meeting without full prior NCACC support, SW would like to strike the word 'prior' because the NCACC will now be on the standing NCTPA agenda. She would add that "the NCACC will be duly informed afterwards and will also be made aware of the outcome".

Lisa Batto recommended this wording for the article: "Individual commissioners may represent the NCACC to the general public or at an NCTPA meeting on items that are outside the scope of the bylaws with prior consent from the Commission."

LB asked commissioners to send any more ideas for changes to DDS, who will rework the bylaws for the next NCACC meeting when the commissioners can have an official vote.

SW asked about the difference in liability (D&O insurance, etc.) between a commission and a committee. MW will call the staff at NCTPA and report back.

#### **VI. Other Business**

##### **Public Art Ordinance**

TB asked for a status report and update on the Public Art Ordinance (PAO) and all ACNV activities. MW will add this as a standing item to the NCACC monthly meeting agenda.

MW reported on the PAO: The public outreach process is complete and it generated a great deal of feedback.

TB has concern about the future of the ordinance and feels ACNV should convene more focus groups with some the people in the business community folks who have voiced opposition.

MW explained that the City of Napa has directed ACNV throughout the process, after the Planning Commission began the project.

**TB made a motion:** She recommends meeting with a small group of concerned individuals who could add to our process of refining and crafting the public art ordinance before presenting it to the Planning Commission.

VOTE: LB – abstained; JC – abstained; DDS, SW, YH, TB – in favor.

**The motion passed.**

**LB made a motion:** He formally requested there be a regular NCACC representative on the Public Art Committee.

VOTE: All in favor.

**The motion passed.** (DDS is a member of the Public Art Committee.)

Commissioners planned to write a letter to the editor in a few months to state their position and recommendations for the ordinance.

#### Calistoga Chamber of Commerce

YH reported on a meeting she had last week at the Calistoga Chamber with some members of the Vitality Committee, a group looking to build business in Calistoga. YH presented evidence on the success of WaterFire in Providence, RI.

#### ACNV Report (Michelle Williams)

Michelle gave a short report of current ACNV work:

The Open Studios jury process has just been completed and ACNV hopes for 90-100 participating artists this year.

In the Arts Ed program, ACNV has given matching grants to 13 schools so far, and has seen a higher application rate than in recent years. MW will let JC know if St. John's Catholic or Yountville Elementary has applied this year.

There is a new exhibit by River School students going up soon at City Hall as part of the Rotating Children's Rotating Exhibition program there. MW will send commissioners the reception date once it is set.

Plans are moving ahead for the ARTwalk program for downtown Napa. ACNV has been working with Redevelopment city staff to develop this program to install rotating outdoor sculpture. If the program is approved by the City, the first call for artists would happen in early 2010.

In fund development, Open Studios has lost its title sponsor from last year, Hall Wines. Memberships and donations are also down so ACNV is looking at how to streamline all programs.

MW will send the full ACNV Action Plan for 2009 to commissioners.

#### Zoning

LB asked commissioners to think about the zoning issue between now and the next meeting so that they can move forward on then. He would like to go to the Supervisors to discuss making changes to the zoning laws to allow sale of art on valley floor.

Adjournment: 6:00 PM