

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

May 11, 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 (MM), Jon Lail (JL), T Beller (TB)

Staff: Michelle Williams (MW), Kristina Young (KY), Eliot Hurwitz (EH)

**I. Meeting called to order 4:00pm**

**II. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**III: Approval of April 6 Meeting Minutes**

Because there was not a quorum present at the NCACC's previous monthly meeting, there were no official minutes to approve.

**IV. NCACC Business**

**A. Discussion: Goals, Objectives, Mission Statement Document to be sent to NCTPA**

DDS revised the NCACC mission, goals and objectives and presented the document for discussion. *Original presented versions are recorded below in blue, revised versions in green.* Main discussion points follow each section.

**NCACC Mission Statement**

*(Original)* The mission of the Napa County Art and Cultural Commission is to provide vision, leadership and inspiration that recognizes the Arts as vital and integral to the well-being of Napa County communities.

JC asked if the word 'support' could be added. Upon further discussion, commissioners decided that may infer financial support, which is not the intent and may cause confusion.

DDS and other commissioners still question the use of the term "well-being", as they believe it is often overused. Commissioners decided to leave it as part of their mission for now.

*(Revised)* The mission of the Napa County Arts and Culture Commission is to provide vision, leadership and inspiration that recognizes the arts as vital and integral to the well-being of Napa County communities.

Motion, DDS: Accept revised version of NCACC mission.

Second: TB

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

**NCACC Goals**

**GOAL #1**

*(Original)* NCACC serves as the primary body to advise and make recommendations on arts and cultural planning, policy, and programs in Napa County and its local jurisdictions.

(Revised) The Commission serves as the primary body to advise and make recommendations on arts and cultural planning, policy, and programs in Napa County and its local jurisdictions.

Motion, TB: Accept NCACC Goal #1 as written (with small grammatical correction).  
Second: DDS  
Discussion: Commissioners questioned the clarity for this goal (ie, to WHOM the NCACC would make recommendations?). However upon further discussion, they decided they do not want to create these kinds of restrictions at this early stage.

Motion, LB: Accept Goal #1 as written  
Second: DDS  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **GOAL #2**

(Original) NCACC is the liaison between the arts community, government, business, philanthropic leaders, community developers educators and the public at-large.

(Revised) The Commission is the liaison between the arts community, government, business, philanthropic leaders, community developers, educators and the public at-large.

Motion, JL: Accept Goal #2 as written (with small grammatical correction).  
Second: DDS  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **GOAL #3**

(Original) Recognize business and individual leaders who support local arts

(Revised) The Commission recognizes businesses, individual leaders and organizations which support arts in the local community.

Motion, TB: Accept Goal #3 as written.  
Second: YH  
Discussion: NCACC will add HOW these leaders are recognized in their objectives. Commissioners also added 'organizations' to the list. DDS will also make all of the goals grammatically the same – to start each with "The Commission..."

Motion, LB: Accept Goal #3 with amendments.  
Second: DDS  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **NCACC Objectives**

### **OBJECTIVE #1**

(Original) Advocate/promote/advise regarding the creation of public art policy that supports the arts of Napa County communities, ie: zoning ordinances, public art, art in education, etc.

(Revised) Advocate/promote/advise regarding the creation of arts related policy and infrastructure that supports the arts of Napa County communities including: zoning ordinances, public art, art in education.

Motion, YH: Accept Objective #1 as written.  
Second: TB

Discussion: MW cited policy and infrastructure as the major areas of need in Napa County that could be addressed by advocacy. Commissioners decided to change 'public art' to 'arts-related' in order to broaden the scope of this objective.

Motion, LB: Approve Objective #1 with changes.

Second: TB

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **OBJECTIVE #2**

(Original) Explore the creation of a Napa County Community Cultural Arts Center

- a. provide representation to Coalitions currently reviewing status and planning for future use of public/private spaces/facilities

(Revised) Explore the creation of a Napa County Community Cultural Arts Center.

Motion, DDS: Approve Objective #2 as written.

Second: JC

Discussion: Because they are two separate issues, JL suggested separating sub-objective 'a' to stand alone as Objective #3. Commissioners agreed. This part of the objective will give the arts a voice in key decision making, as they relate to future facility use. DDS gave the following example: An NCACC representative will sit on the committee that has formed to explore Copia's future.

Motion, JL: Approve Objective #2 (without 'a')

Second: SW

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **OBJECTIVE #3**

(Revised) Provide representation to Coalitions planning for the future use of public/private spaces/facilities.

Motion, TB: Approve Objective #2 a as Objective #3.

Second: SW

Discussion: Commissioners believe this objective still needs wordsmithing. They also don't want to limit their involvement to 'current' discussions. DDS reminded the group that objectives are refined all the time, so they will be able to continue to refine them in the future

Motion, SW: Approve Objective #3, as rewritten.

Second: TB

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **OBJECTIVE #4**

(Original) Host an annual Arts Award event, that recognizes exceptional business/individual leaders who support the Arts.

(Revised) Explore the opportunities for recognizing exceptional businesses, individual leaders and organizations which support arts in the local community.

Motion, LB: Approve Objective #4 as written.

Second: DDS

Discussion: Commissioners would like to add 'organizations' or 'organizational leaders' to this list. MW reminded the group that any kind of event would require funding,

which they currently do not have. MM and JL thought that maybe an event could come later. TB said that in the future, the NCACC could plan an event like this with ACNV or another partner organization.

Commissioners discussed other appropriate vehicles to recognize these leaders, such as with a plaque or in a public speech? They will continue to explore possible ideas for the future, and revise this objective accordingly.

JC also noticed some inconsistencies in the document: sometimes 'arts' is capitalized and other times not; sometimes the word 'local' is used before arts. The group would like to make the document clear and consistent throughout, especially when discussing 'local art'. The NCACC does not want to exclude art that was made outside Napa County, but is on view or performed locally. YH suggested they change it to 'support arts in the local community'. MM gave the example of the Frank Geary Building at HALL Winery to show how the valley is 'going global', but that many local people are involved in the project.

Motion, LB: Approve Objective #4, as rewritten.  
Second: JC  
Discussion: The commissioners discussed the appropriate capitalization of 'arts'. They decided it should only be capitalized in their name and nowhere else.

Motion, TB: Approve Objective #4, as rewritten with grammatical changes.  
Second: SW  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

### **NCACC Name Change**

To clarify public perception, DDS also discussed the possible need to change the name of the Commission. She suggested removing the word "Art", and rename it the "Napa County Cultural Commission" or the "Cultural Commission of Napa County" as a way to help distinguish it from Arts Council.

Some commissioners expressed approval, however, others were unsure. JL said that the word 'culture' alone could cause other confusion. JC wants to keep 'art' in the title. MM suggested "Commission to Beautify". YH suggested working on the name after the Commission's goals had been accepted by NCTPA. MW agreed, saying that this is a big issue that the Commission should not rush to make any changes quickly.

EH reported that the NCTPA meets monthly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. The agendas are set a week before each meeting. The schedule for next month is as follows:

June 1 – Next NCACC meeting

June 5 – Deadline for NCACC to send any agenda items to NCTPA

June 8 – NCTPA Agenda sent out

Motion, LB: Table the renaming of NCACC until next meeting in June.  
Second: DDS  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

### **NCACC Board Policies & Guidelines**

DDS went over the Proposed Board Policy document that she prepared. [Proposed document text is recoded below in blue.](#)

### **BACKGROUND**

The Arts Commission to function as the liaison between the arts community, government, business and philanthropic leaders, community developers, county and city planners and the public at large.

Application process, defined qualities, professional experience required:

- Reside in the city or unincorporated area of Napa County appointed to represent
- Practice in the field of architecture, visual arts, performing arts, public arts, art history, historic preservation, arts administration or have demonstrated knowledge of and appreciation for cultural and artistic activities

Job description:

- Commissioners should demonstrate an understanding of strategic work, vision and an ability to make change happen.
- In addition, members may:
  - Advocate for the arts in Napa Valley;
  - Represent the cities and county as an art official;
  - Promote public access to the highest quality arts opportunity possible;
  - Recommend art policies and procedures to city and county leadership.

Membership may be withdrawn for any of the following reasons:

- Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) absences in an eighteen month period from regularly scheduled meetings;
- Misrepresentation at time of appointment with respect to artistic endeavor;
- If member does not reside in Napa County;
- No individual member shall represent the Commission to the general public or at a NCTPA Board meeting without majority vote of a quorum at a Commission meeting prior to presentation.

## **CORE VALUES**

Normally the group would define its core values in a retreat setting, but due to lack of funding, she suggested the following:

Integrity	Demonstrate the highest ideals of honesty, ethical behavior and fairness
Service	Value public service as a calling and strive for excellence in all that we do
Collegiality	Work as a team and in concert to achieve the mission, goals and objectives of the Commission

Motion, DDS: Accept the NCACC Core Values as written.

Second: TB

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **REPRESENTATION**

- No individual member shall represent the Commission to the general public or at a NCTPA Board meeting without majority vote of a quorum at a Commission meeting prior to presentation.
- This to include any/all written material affiliated with Commission must be reviewed and receive prior approval by a vote of a quorum.

Motion, DDS: Accept the NCACC Representation as written.

Second: LB

Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **ATTENDANCE**

A Commissioner is expected to attend all Commission meetings and may be asked to resign if she/he has: Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) absences in an eighteen month period from regularly scheduled meetings.

This policy was previously adopted and approved by all commissioners.

## **TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

The term of appointment shall be for three years, which may be renewed for no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Stagger the first three year appointments: 3 for 3 year initial term; 3 for 2 year initial term; 3 for 1 year initial term

A vacancy or vacancies in the Commission shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of the following: The declaration by resolution of the commission of a vacancy of the commissioner who (i) has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court; or (ii) convicted of a felony; or (iii) has been found by final order or judgment of any court to have breached a duty under Sections 5230 et seq. of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law; or (iv) the vote of a majority of the commissioners then in office to remove a commissioner; or (v) an increase in the authorized number of commissioners; or (vi) the failure to appoint the number of commissioners to be appointed.

This policy will become part of the bylaws, which are yet to be accepted by NCTPA. Commissioners decided to table this subject for now.

## **COMPENSATION**

Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Commission and the appointing agency; and shall receive no compensation for their work/activities affiliated with the Commission other than out-of-pocket, pre-approved (by vote of a quorum) expenses to perform their duties as a commissioner.

Motion, TB: Accept the NCACC Compensation Policy as written.  
Second: DDS  
Result: All in favor, motion passed.

## **B. Draft Public Art Ordinance: Review and Recommendations to the City of Napa**

MW read the new draft Public Art Ordinance and the recommendations recently made by the Public Art Committee (PAC). After carefully reviewing the new draft and the PAC recommendations, the Commission agreed with and accepted the PAC recommendations. MW will send out the draft document and signify the NCACC's endorsement of the PAC's recommendations.

The draft ordinance is scheduled to go before the City Council in July, if it passes Planning Commission in June. MW asked Commissioners to meet with each Planning Commissioner before their 6/4 meeting. At these meetings, NCACC commissioners should answer any questions and ask for their support. SW, JL, and DDS offered to help.

## **C. New American Canyon Commissioner Update**

LB and MW are going to meet with American Canyon City Council to discuss their next representative to the NCACC. They hope to have a new appointment made by June or July.

#### **D. Nomination of NCACC Representation to Public Art Committee**

LB reported that DDS accepted the appointment to the PAC.

#### **E. COPIA Coalition Project**

MM reported that the bankruptcy court is supportive of the coalition that has formed to look at the future uses of the Copia site. Commissioners would like to have an NCACC representative on the steering committee of the new coalition to make sure the arts continue to be represented as part of Mr. Mondavi's original vision. The NCACC will hold off on any official endorsement of the project until they have more information.

#### **F. Other Business**

MM also reported that she had been approached by Linda Cordair of Quent Cordair Fine Art about a proposed project to create a bronze statue of Robert Mondavi as a tribute. MW reported that ACNV has been approached to be the fiscal sponsor for the project. The ACNV board has discussed the idea and would like MM's input before pursuing it further. MM reported that although she appreciates all efforts to honor her late husband, she was concerned about the possible locations that had been proposed, specifically Dwight Murray Plaza, which she feels should be kept as an honorary place for Mr. Murray. She felt Mondavi Winery or Copia could be more appropriate places for the sculpture. Commissioners discussed how the new public art ordinance and guidelines would provide the framework for decisions on placement of such projects in the future, and that MM should be involved in any decision making about this project.

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:15pm**

