CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
ARTS COMMISSION
6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 17, 2011

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Millar called to order the regular meeting of the Arts Commission at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL
All Commissioners were present.

FLAG SALUTE
Vice Chair Strickland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Strickland, second by Dow to approve the minutes of February 17, 2011.

Hearing no objections, it was so ordered.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Staff had recommended that the Commission continue the agenda item, allowing City staff to continue to meet with College of the Canyons staff and further negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding before bringing it back to the Arts Commission and the City Council for consideration.

There was no motion to amend the agenda per staff's request. Motion by Strickland, second by Dow to approve the agenda as written.

Hearing no objections, it was so ordered.

ARTS SPOTLIGHT
Pat Thayer from Santa Clarita Artists Association gave an overview of their current and upcoming productions.

ARTS RECOGNITION
The following students were recognized for their outstanding success at the Westside Music Foundation Robert Turner Piano Concerto Competition: Elizabeth Johnston, Evan Luo, and Lily Choi. Their teacher Agnes Kim was also recognized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION COMMENTS
Commissioner Dow stated that the Santa Clarita Performing Art Center is one of the crown jewels of this community. It is a fantastic opportunity for marketing the City. Without the MOU in place, there are some organizations that might not be able to exist. He asked how we can think creatively and quickly for a resolution, because he is very concerned about timing.

Commissioner Strickland said that so many people have worked so hard to get to this point. The Performing Arts Center is an impressive facility and it would be devastating to the community to loose it.

Chair Millar stated that he was involved in the initial meetings when COC brought this proposal forward. The City's revised recommended action is an excellent idea. There are so many benefits with having the Performing Arts Center. It is extremely important our community groups have this facility to continue.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following community members spoke in favor of continuing the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons: Christine Tavares and Angelo Munoz, representing Valencia High School Choir, Patti Finley, representing Canyon Theatre Guild, Diane Trautman, Mary Judy, Corinne Glover, McKenna Kimball, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Keri Leiner, Hilary Darling, representing CalArts and Santa Clarita Ballet, John Morris, representing Canyon Theatre Guild, TimBen Boydston, representing Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre and Canyon Theatre Guild, Sherry Klahs, representing Santa Clarita Master Chorale, Tonya Chrislu, representing Santa Clarita Master Chorale, Kyle Burson, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Barry Kenper, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Leesa Veluzat, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Joni Sheesley, Brian Walto, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Von Hougo, Dr. Floyd Moos, representing College of the Canyons, Marta Lopez, Charles Vignola, representing ESCAPE Theatre, Kathy Niemi, representing Santa Clarita Ballet Company, John Fortman, representing Santa Clarita Regional Theatre and Santa Clarita Master Chorale, Dawn Cooper, representing Santa Clarita Ballet, Caroline Siler and Sidney Haefs, representing Santa Clarita Ballet, Corinne Masters, Adam Philipson, representing College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center, Kimberly Cleaves, Abby Walters, and Nadine Lara.

ITEM 1
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Interim Community Services Superintendent, Ingrid Hardy, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission, giving an overview of the historical timeline of events regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for the Performing Arts Center. Staff recommended bringing this item back to the Commission at the April 21 meeting.

Commission received and commented.

Motion by Strickland, second by Dow, to reject original staff recommendation and approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center, similar in substance and form to the Exhibit, and to call a special meeting with the Commission if there are any substantial changes due to the time sensitive nature of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion carried unanimously by Commissioner Dow and Vice Chair Strickland. Commissioner Schmidt left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ARTS COMMISSION INITIATIVES UPDATE
Commissioner Dow stated that the new 661Arts website is about 30 days from launching. He thanked Phil Lantis and his team for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Strickland continues to meet with Art Educators. These are very exciting, well attended meetings.

Chair Millar said that the Leadership and Development Initiative team met with Santa Clarita Education Foundation and Master Chorale.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Commission received and commented.

STAFF COMMENTS
Interim Superintendent Hardy reminded Commissioners of the Arts Commission retreat on Saturday, March 19, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Interim Superintendent Hardy said they will invite former Commissioner, Sandy Fisher, to the next Commission meeting on April 21 to thank and recognize her for her dedication and commitment to the arts.

Interim Superintendent Hardy asked Commissioners if they would be interested in participating in the annual recognition of City staff that takes place in July, like the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission does.

ADJOURNMENT
Chair Millar adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING
A retreat will be held for the Arts Commissioners and City staff on Saturday, March 19, 2011, from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., at Tesoro Adobe Park.

The next regular meeting of the Arts Commission will be held on April 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, first floor of City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, CA.

Ingrid Hardy
Interim Community Services Superintendent

Dr. Michael Millar, Chair
Arts Commission

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