JOINT MEETING OF THE LIBRARY AND LITERACY COMMISSION
AND
ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 7, 2012
5:30 p.m.
LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
PORTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

LIBRARY AND LITERACY COMMISSION
Ellen Nichols, Chair
Joe Moreno
Allan Bailey
Catherine E. May
Rebecca Ybarra, Vice-Chair
Esther Figueroa

ARTS COMMISSION
Rebecca Ybarra, Chair
Roger Merryman, Vice-Chair
Deana Worthington
Joan Givan
Alex Schooler
Sandra Romero
Monte Reyes

III. ORAL/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 29, 2012 Meeting

V. SCHEDULED MATTER

1. MURAL
RE: Review library mural design revisions and make recommendation to City Council.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- Library and Literacy Commission to the meeting of Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 5:30pm.
- Arts Commission to the meeting of Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 5:30pm.

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The mission of the Porterville Public Library is to be a visible learning center by providing literacy materials and services for all ages throughout our community for personal enrichment, the power of information, and the joy of reading.

The mission of the City of Porterville Parks and Leisure Services Commission is to advise on the provision of excellent customer services to the citizens for the community, to enhance their quality of life by providing opportunities for the public enjoyment, inspiration, education, personal development and cultural enrichment, and to advocate for clean, safe, well designed parks and facilities.
1. **Mural**

The Library and Literacy Commission and Arts Commission called a second joint meeting to review final revisions of the library mural project proposed by the WildPlaces non-profit organization.

Staff recommends that the Library and Literacy Commission and Arts Commission accept or deny the final design as submitted. If the proposal is accepted staff advises that a joint recommendation move forward onto the City Council’s agenda for official consideration and approval.
Item No. 1 – CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was opened by Esther Figueroa Figueroa, Library & Literacy Commission at 5:35 pm.

Item No. 2 – ROLL CALL

Joint Library Members present: Allan Bailey, Rebecca Ybarra, Joe Moreno Moreno, Catherine May, Esther Figueroa Figueroa and Ellen Nichols (came late, at 5:30 pm)

Arts Commission Members present: Monte Reyes, Joan Givan, Alex Schooler, Roger Merryman, and Rebecca Ybarra. Absent: Sandra Romero and Deana Worthington

Staff Present: Christina Tank, Vikki Cervantes, Denise Marchant and Brad Dunlap

Some members from the public were present though there was no sign in sheet.

Item No. 3 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Oral Communications

Item No. 4 – SCHEDULED MATTER

Vikki Cervantes gave introduction on why this special meeting had been called. Invited the presenters from WildPlaces to come up and give presentation. Carlos Gomez and Bryan De La Cerda introduced themselves.

Carlos Gomez gave brief introduction on the Step-Up program and how the mural idea came about. Carlos Gomez showed the first initial pencil drawing of mural and explained the mission of WildPlaces. He explained the brainstorm of ideas that happened and how the concept of the Mural came about. He ended with another black and white rendering of their concept of what the mural will look like when completed. This drawing was handed out and he explained the large water drops that are blank will be filled with individual local youth’s concept drawings and final rendering to match the style of the Mural. Carlos Gomez explained the many opportunities for the artistic youth to take those talents and turn them from defacing property to focusing on art, and in specific, capturing art in the Mural.

At this point, Commissioner Rebecca Ybarra recused herself and Monte Reyes from any voting as they have a conflict since they serve as consultants on the project.

Carlos Gomez showed the Commissioners examples of what is to be put inside the water drops, and showed the progress from the youth’s concept to the almost final version. Carlos Gomez explained that this Mural is at completely no cost to the City of Porterville or to the Library and it is fully grant-funded, from creation to the maintenance. Carlos Gomez explained how the missions of Wildplaces and the mission of the Library are connected to the concept of the mural. At this time, Carlos Gomez turned the presentation over to Bryan De La Cerda De La Cerda.
Bryan De La Cerda thanked everyone for their time in attending this special meeting and thanked the youth that have attended in support. He gave a brief introduction of himself, explained that he has been with WildPlaces since January. He explained that he is employed by Ameri-Core and is here in Central Valley volunteering for 2 years.

Ellen Nichols arrived at the meeting at this time.

Bryan De La Cerda explained more of the concept of the mural and the “water shed” connection between nature and every living animal. He explained each aspect of the mural example and why it’s been chosen to represent the water shed, nature and the Central Valley. At this time, Carlos Gomez invited the youth that were in attendance to step up to the front and explain why they are excited about the concept. Three youths explained why they are in favor of the mural and asked for the Commissioners to grant permission for it to be painted on the Library wall.

Alex Schooler asked a question about the size of the mural. Carlos Gomez explained that the size is going to be roughly about 9 feet tall by 16 feet wide.

Alex Schooler asked about the maintenance of the Mural. Carlos Gomez explained that the grant has funded the approximate amount to keep the maintenance up on the mural, which is about $500 per year.

Esther Figueroa asked if the program is open to all youth in the City. Carlos Gomez responded that the grant is for District 5 so any youth in District 5 could participate.

Joe Moreno asked about the location of the mural specifically where it is to be placed and how the Mural is to be applied. Carlos Gomez responded that it is the West wall of the Library and that it could be centered on the wall if so given direction.

Joe Moreno inquired about the trees blocking the view of the mural. Carlos Gomez let him know that the colors will be bright enough to attract the eye of any passerby. Vikki Cervantes also responded that the trees are trimmed annually by City of Porterville Parks Department.

Alex Schooler questioned the fisted hand that is holding a carrot, explained that he has youth that would interpret that as a knife if it is put in the mural as it looks now. Bryan De La Cerda and Carlos Gomez explained that the drawing is black and white and the mural will be in full color and the carrot will be bright orange with big leaves and should not be seen as anything other than a carrot. One of the youth in attendance gave the suggestion that the hand could be changed to a cupped hand and maybe could hold a bunch of grapes. This idea was liked by the Commissioners. Carlos Gomez assured everyone that the mural is for non-violence positivity and would be open to changing aspects to keep this.

Councilmember Greg Shelton arrived at the meeting at 6:15 pm. He asked about the fisted hand in center of drawing that is empty of anything. He explained that, to him, this image indicates violence. Others in the meeting agreed. Discussion ensued about how to change this to lessen the violence aspect that could be perceived. A suggestion by Joe Moreno to place some stalks of wheat into the hand could improve this. Catherine May suggested maybe changing it to a high-five image. Joan Givan suggested that maybe the different hands could be slanted to different directions, and that they not all look exactly the same. Joe Moreno suggested that the carrot in the other fisted hand could be turned the other direction, facing up rather than facing down.
Ellen Nichols asked about the ramifications if the Mural is not well-received and if it gets painted over. She sited an example that had happened in another city. Carlos Gomez let her know that if that happens, it is out of his hands.

Esther Figueroa explained to Carlos Gomez and Bryan De La Cerda that their concerns are about the specific design of the mural and not the over-all concept. Allan Bailey agrees that this is the main issue. Carlos Gomez and Bryan De La Cerda explained that the individual designs can be altered if necessary.

Esther Figueroa asked about the timeline of the mural. Carlos Gomez lets them know that it needs to be completed by the end of the year as it is being funded by a Step Up grant that will be expiring.

Vikki Cervantes asked about naming rights of the mural and who has this right. Carlos Gomez admits he hadn’t thought about that aspect and would be open for discussion and negotiation. He explained in detail why the sample is in black and white for this discussion’s purpose so that if there were changes necessary it could be done easily. The presentation in front of the City Council will be completely in color and very detailed.

Joan requested that the farmer on the mural sample look more like a farmer as he does not look the part at the moment. She requested that the glasses be removed. Carlos Gomez said it’s a good recommendation and agreed to remove the glasses.

Brad Dunlap let everyone know that no final decision can be made tonight as there was not a quorum on behalf of the Arts Commission since 2 members had recused themselves and 2 members were absent. Discussion ensued as to when it needs to go to the City Council for review and approval and the time frame to accomplish this. It was noted that it should be on the City Council Agenda for the 2nd meeting in November which is November 20, 2012.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION**

MOVED by Catherine May and SECONDED by Joe Moreno to have another joint meeting on November 7, 2012 for final design revision and vote for approval for presentation to go before the City Council.

    AYES: 8 (combined)
    NOES: 0
    ABSENT: 2
    ABSTAINS: 2

Next meeting is set for November 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library’s Historical room.

It was brought to everyone’s attention that this is Ellen Nichols’ and Joe Moreno’s last meeting of the Library and Literacy Commission. There was discussion about when the new members are to be appointed and what that timing means for the vote on the mural. Staff will add language in the City Council staff report to allow the current members to remain on the Commission to be able to vote on this issue. Ellen Nichols and Joe Moreno agreed to attend the next joint meeting as Commissioners before retiring from the Library and Literacy Commission.

**Item No. 5 – ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.