

**CIVIC ARTS
COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Monday, September 9, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of August 5, 2013.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations – Cultural Plan Update Presentation
3. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda. *Speakers are encouraged to limit comments to 3 minutes.*

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

If necessary to assure completion of the following items, the Chairperson may establish time limits for the presentations by individual speakers.

4. Review of the Alviso Adobe Community Park and Programs

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSION REPORTS: Brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission members.

Committee Meetings:

- a. Park and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee
- b. Cultural Plan Update Steering Committee
- c. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee

COMMISSION COMMENTS

STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: October 7, 2013

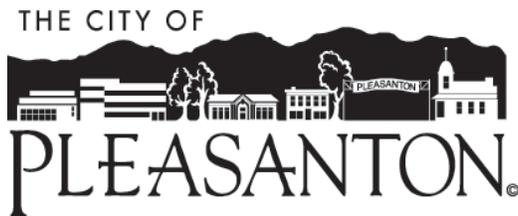
UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS: Artistic Design Utility Box Discussion

Notice

Under Government Code §54957.5, any writings/documents regarding an open session item on this agenda provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Community Services Department, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

Accessible Public Meetings

The City of Pleasanton will provide special assistance for citizens with disabilities to participate in public meetings upon advance notice. If you need an auxiliary hearing aid or sign language assistance at least two working days advanced notice is necessary. Please contact the Community Services Department, PO Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or (925) 931-5340.



Civic Arts Commission Minutes

City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
August 5, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson McLane called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sandra Jellison, John Loll, Olivia Scrivner, Stephanie Wedge, Judy Wheeler, and Chairperson Tegan McLane.

Commissioners Absent: Karen De Baca Martens, Heidi Massie, and Sara Nealy.

Staff Present: Michele Crose, Community Services Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of June 3, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Loll, seconded by Commissioner Wedge, to approve the minutes of June 3, 2013 meeting. **The motion was approved.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

Ms. Crose introduced Sandra Jellison as a Commission Alternate, Olivia Scrivner as the new Youth member of the Commission. Chairperson McLane presented the Oaths of Office to Commissioners Jellison, Loll, Scrivner and Wedge.

1. Public comment from the Audience regarding items not listed on the agenda

There were none.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review of FY 2012-13 Pleasanton Community Grant Final Performance Reports

Ms. Crose reviewed with Commissioners the Pleasanton Community Grant Final Performance Reports for FY 2012/13. She noted that all agencies had submitted their Final Reports by the July 22, 2013 deadline with the exception of Pleasanton Community Concert Band who did not submit their report until July 25, and the Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) who had still not submitted their report.

The Commission was advised that all agencies had expended their grant funding allocations with the exception of Pleasanton Community Concert Band (Audience and Performance Growth) who had left a balance of \$22.67 and The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (Arts in the Schools) who had left a balance of \$75.00. Ms. Crose noted that the remaining balances, totaling \$97.67, would be added to the funding available for FY 14/15 Community Grant year.

Commissioner Loll indicated that he had experienced some difficulty in downloading the reports from the PDF file and was missing the last page of the report from The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC). He commented on the fact that he was disappointed in not seeing more collaboration between the art groups and would have liked to have seen the funds used for such. Commissioner Loll was impressed that funds had been used for The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Councils "Big Draw" event, which had collaborated with other groups and was seen as a signature event, but Commissioner Loll does not like to see funds used for the purchase of agencies equipment, i.e. dance floors.

Ms. Crose noted that PCAC has provided a list of all the associations it collaborated with for the "Big Draw" event and agreed their funds were well used.

Commissioner Wheeler agreed with Commissioner Loll's comments and wondered if additional information should be provided to the agencies in the application, making them aware of what the Commission is looking for. She understands the Commission's goal of trying to get agencies to collaborate and work together, but thought the agencies needed to do more with "shouting out" information about their events to make more people aware.

Commissioner Loll thought the Commission had not challenged groups enough to work with each other collaborating and promoting each other's programs.

Commissioner Jellison suggested inviting groups to an informal workshop meeting at where information could be exchanged. She felt exchanging information was something that had always been lacking with groups and organizations in the City of Pleasanton.

Ms. Crose felt that groups are aware of each other, but don't always keep abreast of what other groups are doing, which is a problem. She commented on the fact that some agencies appear to apply for funding to help the organization exist, and agreed that an informal workshop could be very helpful.

Commissioner Scrivner agreed with the workshop concept and felt it would help provide groups with a wider base of information.

Commissioner Wheeler suggested restructuring the grants so that events like the PCAC event could be done several times a year. Ms. Crose reminded Commissioners that any changes to the grant process would need to be discussed with the Youth Commission and would require the formation of a sub-committee. Chairperson McLane noted that the grant guidelines had been revamped recently.

Commissioner Loll discussed limitations of the grant process and noted that the Commission has the ability to discuss parameters of Civic Arts criteria and there may be some room to make desired changes.

Commissioner Wedge liked the idea of inviting groups to meet together in a workshop setting. Commissioner Loll also liked this idea. He discussed the open-mike aspect of the Friday night concert events and thought this would be something that in which groups could participate.

Chairperson McLane indicated that she has some problem with the numbers provided by some of the groups in the Final Reports and thought the numbers had been counted twice. Ms. Crose advised that some updating has been taking place with ZoomGrants, but she would check and provide information to the Commission. She thought it would be helpful if agencies provided pertinent information that staff could attach to the Final Report.

Ms. Crose advised Commissioner Wheeler that the Youth Commission would be reviewing their FY 2012/13 Community Grant Final Performance Reports when they resume meeting in September.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Committee Meetings

a. Park and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Commissioner Loll advised that a draft was discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Crose advised that staff has revised the draft several times and the reformatting of the plan. A joint meeting planned for September 10 has been rescheduled.

b. Cultural Plan Update Steering Committee

Chairperson McLane advised that a draft Executive Summary has been reviewed by the Steering Committee and when they meet on September 10, they should be reviewing a full draft plan.

c. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee

Commissioner Wedge and Ms. Crose advised that the PASS committee is still trying to determine a suitable location for the "Rock/Paper/Scissors" piece of public art. Heritage Bank is not interested in having the piece on their property. A Sub-Committee meeting is planned for August 16.

Ms. Crose noted that the mural plan has been approved and agreements with the artist and property-owner are taking place. The artist should begin work on the mural in September and is hoping that the piece will be finished in November. The City of Pleasanton will install some LED lighting to light the piece once it has been installed. Ms. Crose informed the Commission that staff is hoping the artist will be able to attend the Commission's October meeting to provide an update on the project.

Commissioner Loll discussed with Ms. Crose possible placement of "Rock/Paper/Scissors" in the Pleasanton Green Park. Ms. Crose informed the Commission that the Harrington's are working with the Rotary Club on a Clock Tower project for this location. The Harrington's are also looking to partner with a Veterans Group on something for the Pioneer Cemetery.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Loll commented on: 1) Shakespeare in the Park and what a good program it was, and 2) the effectiveness of the Friday Night Concert Open Mike session at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Commissioner Wedge also had positive comments about the Shakespeare in the Park program.

STAFF COMMENTS

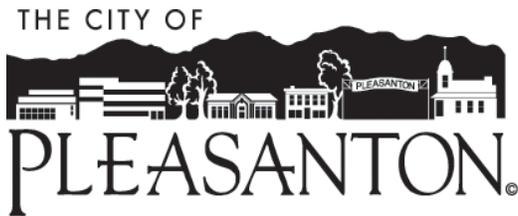
Ms. Crose provided information on the following:

- a. The new Public Art Walk Brochure.
- b. Movies in the Park program with anywhere from 300-600 people attending.
- c. The change of the meeting date in September to September 9. Staff will notify Commissioners of the location, and
- d. Agenda topics for the September meeting will include: Review of the Alviso Adobe & Enviro/Historical Programs, and Report from Cultural Plan Consultants.

Commissioner Loll asked about the web link shown on the Public Art Walk brochure and suggested that the City's website be included.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Civic Arts Commission Staff Report

September 9, 2013
Item 4

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE ALVISO ADOBE COMMUNITY PARK AND PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

The Alviso Adobe Community Park opened to the public on October 25, 2008. In the fall of 2008, the Environmental Education program had limited staffing and held about 11 programs per session. Since that time, programming and staffing has greatly increased which has allowed the Alviso Adobe to continue its mission and generate public interest.

In addition, this year marks the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Alviso Adobe Community Park. In collaboration with the Friends of the Adobe, and the Museum on Main, the City will be conducting an event on October 19, 2013 at the Alviso Adobe Community Park to commemorate its last five years of success.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive and comment.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

None

BACKGROUND

The Alviso Adobe Community Park opened to the public on October 25, 2008. In the fall of 2008, the Environmental Education program had limited staffing and held about 11 programs per session. Since that time, programming and staffing has greatly increased which has allowed the Alviso Adobe to continue its mission and generate public interest.

Facility

The Alviso Adobe Community Park is a unique historic resource that tells the story of California from its earliest human occupation, dating back to 3420 B.C. A \$4.5 million restoration developed the site into an interpretive park where school children and visitors learn about the history of the Amador Valley and get a rare glimpse of times past. From its earliest recorded human habitation as a settlement of the native Ohlone Indians, to the days of the Spanish ranchos, to the turn of the century when it was home to one of California's first certified dairies, original portions of each historical period have been left intact.

Preserving historical artifacts was an important component of the park development. First steps included archival research and field investigation by archeologists who were included on the design team. The site features a Native American grinding rock, the only one of its type in the vicinity. The restored Alviso Adobe, the first building in the Pleasanton area, is the physical and interpretive centerpiece of the park. A re-creation of the historic Meadowlark Dairy milking barn and bunk house accommodate program uses and indoor interpretive displays. The site features a dramatic overlook of the valley, with images of Pleasanton at different time periods. A small amphitheater seats approximately 30 people. Nearby are demonstration areas that involve visitors in the activities of the past, such as making adobe bricks, churning butter, and weaving baskets. The park grounds have been carefully landscaped with native plants, and fruit/nut trees amidst ancient Heritage oak trees and a seasonal creek.

While the park and facilities are exquisite and provide a wonderful setting for interpretive and environmental programming, they also pose some challenges. Both animals and weathering continue to be concerns regarding the building and facilities. However, Community Services and Operational Services' staff work together to address and mitigate these issues.

Community Involvement & Partnerships

The Alviso Adobe staff has worked hard to foster partnerships and encourage community involvement which over time has flourished. A list of current and ongoing volunteer opportunities and partnerships include:

Volunteering & Scouting Opportunities: Volunteer and scout organization can assist with Garden Chores, Acorn Harvest, Oak Gall Harvest, Creek Clean-up and the spreading of wood chips. Without the support and help from the volunteer organizations many tasks would go undone. The staff values and appreciates it's loyal and dedicated volunteer base.

Friends of the Alviso Adobe: The newly formed Friends of the Alviso Adobe group is currently working with staff to assist with the five (5) year celebration and will be working with staff on the upcoming strategic plan. The group's main focus is advocacy for the park and programming.

Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society: The Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society, (Museum on Main) has been a partner of the Alviso Adobe Community Park since the park's opening. Together, City and Museum staff have worked to increase programming offerings, the historical collection, marketing and advertising of the park and programs.

California State University at East Bay: In 2005 the University's Anthropology Department approached the City to partner on archaeological field studies. The field studies also occurred in 2007, 2009 and again this year. During each field study the University's Anthropology Department students visited the park site and engaged in archaeological digs at certain locations on the property. During the field studies any items unearthed were given to staff. This wonderful partnership allowed educational, hands-on training for the students and staff received historical information on any unearthed items that could then be added to the collection.

Natural World Programs

The Environmental Education staff is proud to offer outstanding highly popular programs to the community. Programs are offered at the Alviso Adobe Community Park, the Nature House as well as various parks throughout Pleasanton. A list of some of our more popular programs are included below:

Ancient World: This program offers activities for 4-12 year olds that explore the ways of the past. Examples of programs include: Delightful Dolls, Adobe Brick Making and Cave Painting.

Nature's Wonder Club: This "hands on" series of scientifically based explorations of the plants and animals is offered for 3-6 year olds. Examples of programs include: Quails, Natural Arts and Animal House.

Farm Life: Programs explore the rich agricultural past of Pleasanton. Programs are offered for 5 -12 year olds and include: Butter Making, Garden Party and Rancho Tools of the Trade.

Nature Hikes: A plethora of Naturalist led varying degrees of difficulty hikes are offered throughout the year at numerous locations in Pleasanton. The Alviso Adobe Community Park also offers information on self led hikes.

Nature Explore: This newly created program has been a huge success. Held at the Nature House, this mix of nature exploring and arts and crafts is offered for 1st -5th graders afterschool.

Wondrous Universe: This series explores the skies, sun, moon and stars. The program is focuses on 1st - 5th graders, but also encourages families to attend these evening programs at the Alviso Adobe Park.

Nature Day Camps: Far and away the most successful program in the Environmental Education repertoire is the Nature Day Camp Program. Better known as Ridge Runners, the camps started out as a summer only offering. Now the camps are offered during winter and spring break as well. This year Ridge Runners Camp is offered for 6 weeks during the summer. A special Leadership Camp is offered for an additional week this summer and new this year a Wittle Ridge Runner camp is being offered for 4-6 year olds. Every year we are fortunate to have sold out camps. This year to help meet the community demand, more seasonal staff were hired and the minimum number of campers per camp was increased.

Park Tours, School Program/Field Trips & Special Events

Throughout the year a variety of park tours and special events are held. During the school year a special school program is offered to school districts in the surrounding areas.

Park Tours: Docent led informational park tours are offered at the Alviso Adobe Community Park the first Sunday of every month. The tours are free and donations are encouraged. This is a great way to spend time at the park and learn about Pleasanton history with your family.

School Program/Field Trips: Every school year, the Alviso Adobe staff offer a variety of educational programs that enhance and support the school state standards in science. These programs are offered at a variety of locations and provide an opportunity for teachers to bring their students out into nature and receive hands on learning. If the teacher and students are not able to travel the program can be brought to their classroom. Schools from the Tri-Valley area, Sunol and Tracy have taken advantage of this great program.

Special Events: A variety of wonderful special events are held every year at the Alviso Adobe Community Park. Together with the volunteers, the staff is able to offer these amazing opportunities to the community: The California Newt Festival; Spring Celebration; Annual Lady Bug Release; Fiesta Adobe; Ice Cream Social; Halloween at the Alviso Adobe; Pumpkin Carving; and Alviso Adobe Winter Faire.

DISCUSSION

5th Year Celebration

Because of the success of the Alviso Adobe Community Park and the environmental education programs, staff would like to celebrate the park's five (5) years of official existence. This year the celebration will be held on October 19, 2013 from 10:00am – 3:00 pm. In collaboration with the Friends of Adobe Volunteer Organization and the Museum on Main, the following tentative activities are being planned for the celebration:

- Entertainment/Food and information booths including: Museum on Main, Audubon Society, Meadowlark Dairy, Native Dancers, Creatures of Impulse, KKIQ
- Participation Activities including: Calf Roping, Cow Milking, Rope Tool Making, Butter Making, ATLATL Shooting, Old Time Toys, Shelter Building and Adobe Brick Making
- Demonstration Activities including: Soap Carving, Tortilla Making, Cider Making, Quilt Exhibit, Weaver and Spinner Exhibit, Acorn Display, Bee/Honey Exhibit, Blacksmith Exhibit and live animals on the property

In addition, several sponsors have already been secured for the celebration including:

- BANG newspapers – which will be providing free advertising space for the event
- KKIQ Radio – which will be providing free advertising as well as having a booth space at the event
- Meadowlark Dairy – which will be providing free ice cream for all participants and a historical presentation
- Western Garden – which will be providing assorted seedlings to participants, a presentation on winter gardening and loaning plants for site improvements the day of the event

Staff has secured the use of a Para-transit van for the day and has received permission from Foothill High School to allow vehicles to park at their site. City staff will provide round trip transportation via the Para-transit van, between the Alviso Adobe and Foothill High School.

Staff believes this will be a fun filled educational celebration which will draw returning and new visitors to the property. With the amount of publicity and activities, we are hoping to have at least 250 visitors attend the event.

CONCLUSION

In the first five (5) years, the Alviso Adobe Community Park has experienced great success. However, there is always room for growth and fine tuning. The following is a list of plans and initiatives that are in progress or planned to be implemented in the near future:

Holiday Event: Throughout the years, the City has realized that many community members utilize the park for their family holiday portraits. Many have asked if any formal opportunities to take pictures are offered. This year, staff will be offering an opportunity for families to take their holiday portraits in historical settings and well as in historical costumes, if they so desire. Staff is anticipating this event to be a huge success.

Replacement of Interpretive Panels: There are several interpretive panels throughout the property. Unfortunately, it has been discovered that some of the panels have weathered faster than anticipated and others contain historically incorrect information. Funds have been allocated this year to start to rectify the incorrect information and replace some of the panels.

Strategic Plan: During the Cultural Plan Update, it became apparent that there were potentially additional needs for the Alviso Adobe Community Park. Led by the Friends of the Alviso Adobe, a request for a Strategic Plan was initiated. At the City Council meeting held on June 4, 2013, the City Council's Work Plan was amended to include a project in the second year of the budget cycle that will evaluate the potential for modest capital improvements and programming enhancements at the Alviso Adobe Community Park.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Any other action as determined by the Civic Arts Commission.

Submitted by:



Michele Cruse
Community Services Manager