

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE EL SEGUNDO ARTS AND CULTURE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Pickhaver called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Pickhaver	-	Present
Vice Chairperson Palmer	-	Present
Member Bart	-	Present
Member Burrell	-	Present
Member Carroll	-	Present
Member Haffley	-	Present
Member Kennedy	-	Absent
Member Leach	-	Present
Member Losasso	-	Present
Member Mitchell	-	Present
Member Schepps	-	Present

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – (Related to City Business Only – 5-minute limit per person, 30-minute limit total)

None

A. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. MOTION by Vice Chairperson Palmer, SECONDED by Member Losasso, approving Regular Meeting minutes of July 22, 2025, MOTION PASSED. 10/0

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. El Segundo Blue Butterfly Children’s Book Funding Request

El Segundo High School students Cara King and Sarah Spraggins presented the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Children’s Book Funding Request. Committee members asked questions regarding where the books would be stored, where the proceeds from book sales would go, whether any printing discounts had been secured, the inspiration behind the project, whether the grant application had been completed and submitted, how soon the books would go on sale once funding is granted, who would retain copyright ownership, and whether a book launch was planned. Member Schepps inquired about the book’s promotion after they graduate, given that both are seniors. Cara and Sarah provided additional information.

Member Haffley recommended that Cara and Sarah return at the next meeting with the completed grant application. While the committee expressed full support for the project, further review is required before moving forward.

3. El Segundo Film Festival

This item was tabled for a future meeting due to the absence of the El Segundo Film Festival representative.

4. United Against Hate Week Presentation (*Moved before Item B2*)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Member Green spoke in regard to United Against Hate Week. Committee members asked whether there were any community sponsors involved, if local food businesses had been approached, and who else might be collaborating on the event. DEI Member Green provided additional information.

Chairperson Pickhaver expressed interest in working with the DEI Committee but noted that a joint meeting is not allowed, however he offered to form a working group. He also suggested that Member Green attend the next meeting to discuss potential funding. Council Member Keldorf clarified that while the committee can sponsor artistic components of the event, it would be a challenge to fund food-related expenses. She also recommended reaching out to the Rotary Club and Kiwanis for financial support and promotional assistance. Member Losasso suggested contacting local real estate agent Bill Ruane who could be a valuable resource for both funding and community connections.

5. Art Walk Reception Funding Request

Chairperson Pickhaver spoke regarding the Art Walk Reception Funding Request noting that the Art Walk team had requested a reimbursement of up to \$1,300.00 for food expenses related of the kickoff event. Member Bart questioned why the committee should cover the cost rather than the Art Walk organizers. Chairperson Pickhaver provided additional information.

MOTION by Member Schepps, SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Palmer, to approve the Art Walk Reception Funding Request, MOTION PASSED. 7/2. Nays: Member Bart and Member Losasso. *Member Carroll abstained from the vote as he did not attend the kickoff event.*

Member Burrell emphasized the need for clearer communication regarding such events in the future to avoid any misunderstandings. Several committee members added that they encountered issues when attempting to RSVP.

6. Art Walk Discussion

Committee members shared their observations and experiences from the Art Walk, raising concerns with the augmented reality (AR) art component. Vice Chairperson Palmer offered a different perspective stating that she observed many attendees engaging with the AR art. She also noted that Art Walk Director John McCullough is expected to present engagement data at an upcoming meeting.

Member Losasso commented that while the event was enjoyable, there were some logistical issues. Council Member Keldorf added that Director McCullough expressed interest in establishing a long-term contract as it would allow to discuss planning earlier in the year.

7. Plunge Mosaic Art Update

Chairperson Pickhaver provided the Plunge Mosaic Art Update on behalf of Director of Recreation, Parks, and Library Aly Mancini. He shared that the City Council had approved the proposed design.

8. Recreation Park Mural

Chairperson Pickhaver provided an update on the Recreation Park Mural on behalf of Director Mancini. He shared that the project is currently on hold pending the hiring of a Cultural Arts Coordinator. Member Schepps inquired about the anticipated timeline. Chairperson Pickhaver provided additional information.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. Staffing Update

Chairperson Pickhaver provided the staffing update on behalf of Director Mancini noting that interviews are being conducted this week.

D. REPORTS – BUDGET & INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

None

E. REPORTS - SUBCOMMITTEES

Member Schepps reported that the El Segundo Music Festival Subcommittee is currently on hold pending the hiring of a Cultural Arts Coordinator.

Chairperson Pickhaver noted that the Grants Review Subcommittee will review the funding request for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Book once the application has been submitted.

Chairperson Pickhaver announced that the Park Renovation Subcommittee meeting scheduled for August 28th has been cancelled.

F. REPORTS – RECREATIONS, PARKS, AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR

None

G. REPORTS – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Burrell recommended rescheduling the November and December meetings as the current dates fall close to the holidays.

Member Carroll announced that he will be unable to attend next month's meeting as it coincides with the first day of Rosh Hashanah. He also suggested including standing items on future agendas to allow for ongoing discussion of key topics without unnecessary delays.

Member Haffley invited committee members to attend the upcoming breakfast and panel discussion, "Creative Economy - El Segundo and Beyond", presented by Mattel and El Segundo Chamber, scheduled for Friday, September 19th from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Mattel Global Headquarters.

Member Schepps shared that the Special Events Ad Hoc Committee is offering grants to cities for murals that celebrate their connections to the Olympics and themed around the upcoming Olympic Games.

Chairperson Pickhaver reported that the City Council emphasized that joint meetings should not be held. He also expressed a desire to find an efficient way to collaborate with the DEI.

H. REPORTS – COUNCIL MEMBER LIAISON

Council Member Keldorf reported that Olympic groups are scheduled to tour the Aquatics Center as they have expressed interest in using it for practice. She also noted that the Saari medals will not be displayed at the Plunge. Additionally, she suggested that placing DEI-related items on the agenda is a more efficient approach than holding a joint meeting with the DEI committee.

Adjourned at 6:56 PM

Viviann Gonzalez

Viviann Gonzalez, Senior Administrative Specialist