

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH THE LODI ARTS COMMISSION
HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE, 125 S. HUTCHINS STREET
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008**

A. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Special Joint City Council meeting with the Lodi Arts Commission of May 13, 2008, was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, and Mayor Mounce

Absent: Council Members – Katakian

Present: Lodi Arts Commissioners – Bader, Burgess, Carey, Walth, and Chairperson Lawson

Absent: Lodi Arts Commissioners – Himle

Also Present: City Manager King, Deputy City Attorney Magdich, and Deputy City Clerk Perrin

B. TOPIC(S)

Attendees participated in an interactive “Memories in the Making” scrap book project, during which information was provided on the various Lodi Arts Commission events and programs. Two members of Mr. Tan’s children’s chorus performed songs for the group, and a special presentation was made by Jessica Ram, one of 19 recipients of the scholarships for low-income students, on her experience with and appreciation for the program.

Chairperson Margie Lawson reviewed the mission statement of the Lodi Arts Commission, and Donna Phillips and Sue Sarale provided an overview of the Lodi Arts Project Fund, which is the fundraising arm of the Commission. Ms. Lawson stated that her main goal this year is to rebuild the Commission to full capacity as there have been a significant number of vacancies recently.

Community Center Director Jim Rodems recognized the Lodi Arts Commission and Lodi Arts Project Fund for its continued hard work and efforts, despite being undermanned, and stated he was looking forward to merging the registration programs for Hutchins Street Square and Parks and Recreation, which would provide a new revenue stream and bring about added partnerships. Mr. Rodems further presented information on the Commission’s strategic planning session, First Friday Art Hop, first collaborative art show, Christmas tree auction, arts directory, the purchase of new art for the City of Lodi, and the Art on the Square program.

Council Member Hitchcock stated that art, wine, and grape growing are an integral part of Lodi’s efforts to increase tourism and she expressed support for the Commission’s role in this endeavor.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen emphasized the accomplishments over the last five years including the murals, the Wall Dog event, and the two new art pieces. He believed Council has been supportive of the Commission, even during tough budget times, and he looks forward to seeing further Arts Commission accomplishments over the next five years.

Council Member Johnson questioned how the low-income scholarship program works and what can be done to encourage participation and donations, to which Events Coordinator Diane Amaral responded that the program is funded by the Lodi Arts Project Fund and is advertised in the arts directory, mentioned by the instructors, and is an option through United Way. She agreed that a greater effort could be made to encourage more donations, and Mr. Johnson suggested speaking to local service clubs.

Linda Hansen thanked the Lodi Arts Commission and Lodi Arts Project Fund for the mural on the Animal Shelter building and stated she believed this would increase pet adoptions.

Donna Phillips stated that her goal is to have an arts gallery at Hutchins Street Square and to increase the inventory of art work.

C. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Perrin, Deputy City Clerk