

**APPROVED**



**Nevada Arts Council  
Board Meeting**  
Friday, May 21, 2021 – 10:00 AM

**MEETING LOCATION:**

DUE to COVID-19 this will be a virtual meeting via ZOOM conference platform

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE “DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006 3-21-2020 NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW” AND HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Websites:

<https://www.nvartscouncil.org/about/public-meeting-notices/>

<https://notice.nv.gov>

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Gail Rappa, Chair  
Jerry Schefcik, Vice-Chair  
Patrick Duffy  
Dr. Javon Johnson  
Andy Lott  
Melissa Melero-Moose  
Claire Muñoz  
Mark Salinas  
Yale Yeandel

**STAFF:**

Tony Manfredi  
Maryjane Dorofachuk  
Krista Ficken  
Stephen Reid  
Sierra Scott  
Rebecca Snetselaar  
Kari Ward  
Cathleen Wyatt

**DAG**

Harry Ward

**MEETING MINUTES**

**A. Opening**

- a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Proper Posting – Gail Rappa.

**Chair Gail Rappa called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. and asked if the meeting had been properly posted.**

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**Executive Director, Tony Manfredi responded that the meeting is in compliance with the “declaration of emergency directive 006 3-21-2020 Nevada open meeting law” and has been properly noticed and posted at the Nevada Arts Council Website and on the Nevada Public Notice website.**

- b. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Gail Rappa.

**Chair Rappa conducted roll call and determined quorum was established.**

**Present:**

**Gail Rappa, Jerry Schefcik, Mark Salinas, Yale Yeandel, Andy Lott, Javon Johnson, Patrick Duffy, Claire Munoz**

**Absent:**

**Melissa Melero-Moose – absent and recognized as excused**

**Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward and Nevada Art Council staff in attendance were introduced – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott, Maryjane Dorofachuk, Kari Ward, Krista Ficken, Rebecca Snetselaar**

## **B. Public Comment**

- a. Public comment is welcomed by the Committee. Members of the public who wish to participate during a public meeting may do so by providing public comment during the two designated public comment periods. Additionally, Public comment options may include, without limitation, telephonic or email comment. A period of public comment will be allowed at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
- b. Executive Director to state and read any written public comments that have been received before the meeting.

**Tony Manfredi stated there were two public comments that were submitted via email. The First is from Karen Craig from Classical Tahoe in response to an email update we sent to our operating support grantees.**

**“This is an amazing update!!! I figured it would be several years before the Nevada Arts Council could consider granting operating support again. It will be such a blessing if the NAC Board approves this 2-year extension. Please share our appreciation with everyone!**

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Classical Tahoe is jumping into summer 2021 with two feet! We have a full orchestra season planned with more than a dozen concerts. We will hear this week about a renewal of a major partnership grant to fund livestream and a six-episode series to air in January 2022 on PBS Reno to broadcast Classical Tahoe's six orchestra concerts in 2021. We also have a new partnership with the Sphinx Organization to provide eleven Fellowships to the top Black and Latinx musicians of each instrument to be in residence to perform at The Classical Tahoe Orchestra this summer.

The Second is from Lynnette Curtis in response to an email update we sent to the 2021 Artist Fellowship grant applicants.

“This is wonderful news! I very much support the recommendation to re-open the Artist Fellowship Grant only to the artists who previously submitted (whose hopes were dashed because of a decrease in funds). I'll try to make the virtual meeting. Thank you so much for letting me know.”

There was no other public comment.

### C. Nevada Arts Council Board Member Introductions/Farewells

- a. Introductions and Welcome to Clair Muñoz, Melissa Melero-Moose, Patrick Duffy – Gail Rappa

**Chair Rappa stated there are three new board members to welcome and introduce. She read a short bio for each person, who included Patrick Duffy, Claire Muñoz and Melissa Melero-Moose.**

- b. Thank you to, and farewell remarks from, Karen Michaels – Gail Rappa, Tony Manfredi

**Chair Rappa stated they wanted to thank and say farewell to Karen Michaels.**

**Tony Manfredi thanked Karen for joining this morning and thanked her for all she has done for the Arts Council. He stated that it has been rewarding to work with her as a board member, and that he really appreciated her enthusiasm, guidance, support, and passion that she showed for the Nevada Arts Council. He looks forward to continuing their friendship and hopes for more collaboration in the future.**

**Karen Michaels thanked the board and stated it was her honor and thanked previous board member and chair Joe O'Neal for nominating her. She also thanked Governor Sandoval who had appointed her. She stated that it has been an incredible time getting to know everyone and getting to promote and work for the Nevada Arts Council in a way that uplifts art and uplifts our community in**

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such ways. She offered that the agency can always reach out to her. She looks forward to applying for grants for her vocal jazz trio now that she is no longer on the board. She expressed what a great job was done during the pandemic and that it was such an honor to be on the board during that most difficult time. She wished everyone the best and thanked everyone.

## **D. For Possible Action – Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of Board Minutes – Gail Rappa

Approval of minutes was postponed.

## **E. For Possible Action – Round One FY 2022 Grants**

- a. FY22 GRANT POLICIES – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott

Tony Manfredi stated all board members were sent detailed information on items A through E for review prior to today's meeting. He explained that Sierra Scott will be presenting each item and then pause for questions and discussion from the board. Unless there are objections from any board member, a vote to approve all Round One funding scenarios for Fiscal Year 22 will be conducted in a block format in item E, after completion of the review. Manfredi asked if there were any objections to the block format for this vote.

There were no objections.

Sierra Scott began with background information on why the grants were being managed in a Round One, Round Two format. She stated that typically, all grants were announced in November or December but due to the pandemic and budget confirmation from both state and federal sources, this has been delayed. She stated that due to Nevada Revised Statutes, the agency isn't allowed to close a competitive grant earlier than three months before the guidelines are posted. Given this timing, the agency is hoping to post the guidelines by May 31st.

Sierra explained the changes within the grant policies and asked if there were any questions.

No questions were asked.

- b. FY22/23 OPERATING SUPPORT GRANT – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott
  - Extension for existing grantees
  - Extension award letters out in June/July 2021

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**Sierra Scott stated that based upon staff discussions and feedback from our arts organizations, the agency believes the best course of action for our FY22/FY23 Operating Support Grants is to provide an extension to the existing awardees of our FY20/FY21 Operating Support Grant. The extension will allow grantee organizations to save time and resources so they may focus on delivering their mission, pursue other funding opportunities, and create programming to serve Nevadans safely and sustainably.**

**Board Member Salinas asked what the grant award amount for this grant would be?**

**Sierra Scott stated that funding for this grant varies based upon size of organization and their previous award and that it will be the same as the award amount that they received in FY20 and 21.**

**Board Member Lott asked if the cash matches were still required.**

**Sierra Scott answered that cash matches are still required.**

**Board Member Lott asked what happens if they can't get that match due to the pandemic.**

**Tony Manfredi stated if a grantee has a challenge in meeting the obligations of the grant, the agency will try to help so they are able to utilize the awarded grant funds.**

**There were no further questions.**

- c. **FY22 PROJECT GRANT FOR ORGANIZATIONS – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott**

**Activity period: December 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

**Open August 1 / Close August 31 / Panel 1<sup>st</sup> week of November**

**Award letters out by end of November**

**Sierra Scott stated the biggest change in the Project Grants for Organizations this year is with the timing of the Activity Period being from December 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The grant criteria is the same as the last, board approved, project grant for organizations.**

**Board Member Salinas asked about communicating to constituents given the shortened timeline. He asked if board members should push this out on their social media.**

**Sierra Scott stated it would be beneficial for board members to share the social media posts. She said the agency would send out e-blasts on the grant offerings**

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after they are approved by the board and timing would probably be after the June board meeting.

Board Member Lott asked if an eligible organization could apply for this grant and apply for American Rescue funds during Round 2.

Sierra Scott confirmed this was true and stated she would add that information to the grant guidelines.

Board Member Lott stated his appreciation.

Chair Rappa asked if we needed to make it more clear to our Operational Support Grantees that American Rescue Plan funding could not be used to match their operating support grant.

Sierra Scott stated it would be valuable to add that into the guidelines.

Tony Manfredi stated that we will also communicate this information during webinars and in one-on-one consulting sessions with grantees.

There were no further questions from the board.

- d. FY22 FOLKLIFE COMMUNITY GRANT / FY22 FOLKLIFE ARTIST GRANT – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott  
Open July 1, 2021  
Non-competitive

Sierra Scott stated the FY22 Folklife Community Grant guidelines are the same that board members approved last year with the exception that the language “must not be currently incarcerated” was added to the individual grants.

Board Member Salinas asked if that line about incarceration applies to all grants.

Sierra Scott stated it is on the specific guidelines for all grants for individuals.

Board Member Salinas asked if any incarcerated person could receive an NAC individual grant.

Sierra Scott stated no.

Tony Manfredi stated they have been working with Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Harry Ward and have asked other agencies for confirmation. Currently, they are awaiting that confirmation.

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**DAG Ward stated he had no further update. He did acknowledge that this is a precarious situation and that we are waiting to see what the legislature is going to do.**

**Board Member Salinas stated he was concerned with the use of this language.**

**Board Member Duffy stated he concurred with Salinas' sentiment.**

**Chair Rappa stated just for clarification, if I'm understanding correctly, it's not just this grant. It's all individual grants, is that correct?**

**Tony Manfredi stated that was correct. He indicated that there are rules from the state on how grantees must be paid and that these rules must be followed. He continued that this is not about singling out the folklife grant applicants. He explained that the agency immediately consulted with DAG Ward and that he advised them well on how they could proceed. The agency's goals are to include as many persons as possible in our grant funding.**

**Board Member Lott asked if there was anything else that board members could do.**

**Tony Manfredi stated they are awaiting a response. He reminded the board that agencies are challenged right now in managing the pandemic and with the legislative session. He stated that if escalation from board members is needed, he will reach out at that point.**

**Board Member Johnson stated he echoed everything that's been said on this topic.**

**Tony Manfredi and Sierra Scott furthered clarified some state and federal rules for grantees.**

**Gail Rappa thanked staff for the explanation. She echoed the concerns.**

- e. **FY22 ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT – Tony Manfredi, Sierra Scott**
  - No new guidelines posted
  - Re-open previously submitted FY21 applications (41 Literary / 22 Performing / 4 Folk)
  - Re-open applications July-September / Panel in January

**Sierra Scott stated the FY22 Artist Fellowship Grants are the exact same guidelines that have been previously posted, so they are not proposing anything new. Scott reminded the board that the agency had been in process of reviewing the FY 21 Fellowship applications when the shutdown occurred. There were 41 in literary arts, 22 in performing arts, and 4 in folk arts. Prior to the shutdown, the agency had assessed approximately half of applications for accuracy. The**

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agency and board then made the difficult decision to suspend the fellowships at that time due to the significant budget reductions.

Rather than requiring fellowship applicants to start over, the agency is proposing to reopen the previously submitted FY21 applications for a couple of months, allow applicants to update any new information that may have, and then the agency will process these applications as they would have last year. Scott informed the board that they have received some very grateful messages from applicants regarding this possibility. She then asked if the board had any questions.

Board Member Salinas asked if they were going to update the grantees contact info.

Sierra Scott stated yes.

Chair Rappa stated she wanted to thank Sierra and all the staff for this solution. As a past fellowship recipient, prior to board serviced, this especially warms her heart given the amount of work that goes into applying and the disappointment artists felt to have that taken away on top of everything else with the pandemic.

Sierra Scott stated that the agency will offer the same number of fellowships that would have been awarded last year.

Board Member Salinas asked, with the budget, if they agency will offer stipends to our panelists this fiscal year.

Tony Manfredi stated their intent is to offer stipends and that panels will all be virtual this year.

Board Member Salinas stated that was great to hear and then asked if out-of-state panelists would be utilized as well.

Tony Manfredi stated that panels will be a mixture of in-state and out-of-state panelists.

There were no other questions or comments.

- f. **Possible vote** to approve Round One Funding Scenarios for FY22 Grants  
– Gail Rappa

Chair Rappa moved forward with a conducting a block vote on all grants. There was unanimous consent from all board members and the vote passed to approve Round One FY22 grants.



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Chair Rappa expressed her thanks to Scott and Manfredi and all the staff, for their hard work. She acknowledged that this has been just a very complicated puzzle with not all the pieces in place and that they've done an amazing job working to get the money out as fast as possible and to as many people as possible.

## F. Discussion Only – Agency Updates

### a. Round 2 of FY22 Grants

Tony Manfredi stated item a. is a discussion of Round 2 of the Fiscal Year 22 Grants that are currently being finalized for board review. The plan is to have the proposed guidelines to the board prior to the June meeting and then review and possibly approve Round 2 during the June meeting.

Manfredi continued. Item one, Fiscal Year 22, American Rescue Plan Grant. The proposal is that this grant will be open to all eligible Nevada non-profit arts organizations. It will be a noncompetitive grant like the CARES Act Grant. All eligible applicants will be funded; however, awarded grant amounts may vary from requested amount based on the number of applicants and available funding. This will be one-time relief fund, which will be used for one or more of the following guidelines per NEA requirements. Funds may be used for salary support - full or partial, for one or more staff positions. They may be used for fees, stipends, for artists and/or contractual personnel. They may be utilized for facility costs such as rent and utilities. They may also be used for costs associated with health and safety supplies or marketing and promotional costs.

Item two, Fiscal Year 22, American Rescue Plan Grant for individuals. This grant is for artists and must be connected to a project. They cannot be used for operational funds. Manfredi stated that one exciting part about this grant is that, as work is beginning to open back up, there is a need to create artistic projects. The agency is grateful to the NEA that they provided an avenue to help individual artists through this relief funding.

Item three, Fiscal Year 22, Arts Learning Express Grant is a noncompetitive grant for our roster artists, nonprofit organizations, and public institutions. The agency is considering two funding cycles. Funds may be used for in-person residencies, workshops, classes, creating virtual lessons, and/or teaching virtual lessons. It will be open to pre-K through 12 grade and for lifelong learning opportunities as well.

Item four, is a Target of Opportunity Partnership Grant. This is a new grant under development. It will be focused on agency-initiative-based items that can be rolled out at any point during the fiscal year. This grant will allow the agency to be responsive and better able to address funding challenges faced on a year-to-year basis.

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**Manfredi reiterated that more information on all grant proposals will be provided to the board prior to the June meeting. He then asked if are there were questions on any of the four grants?**

**Board Member Salinas stated he thought they all looked really great.**

### **b. Rich in Art License Plate Program – Tony Manfredi**

**Tony Manfred informed the board about the Rich in Art License Plate Program. He discussed NRS 233C.094 that describe the rules and obligations of the license plate program including that the proceeds are for the support of education of children in the arts. He informed the board that the revenue in the account does not lapse to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year and instead moves into a reserve funding category for the agency. The agency retains one-half of the fees that are collected by the DM, and remits, on a quarterly basis, one-half of the fees collected to Arts for All Nevada as instructed by state statute.**

**Manfredi informed the board that from July 1, 2020 - May 16, 2021, \$39,123 has been received. He then gave examples of some of the items that Arts for All Nevada does with the funding and stated that the arts council utilizes the funds for its K-12, Arts Learning Grants.**

**Manfredi provided additional detail on how the agency manages its portion. Historically, the council was using the funds as it came in for its grant program. This made it challenging to know just how many grants could be awarded due to the uncertainty of how much funding comes in during a fiscal year. Now, the council determines how much is required, approves this amount with the board, and utilizes its reserve license plate funds to award a portion of its Arts Learning Grants. The 50% that comes in for the agency during its fiscal year remains unspent in the account and is placed into the reserve category at the end of the fiscal year. This helps replenish the reserves so we can sustain the program.**

**Jackie Clay, Arts for All Nevada Executive Director, was on the call and answered some questions from board members regarding the types of programming Arts for All Nevada supports including visual arts, teaching artists, creative movement workshops, drama and literary arts as well.**

**Tony Manfredi stated that he and Jackie Clay have been communicating about ways that they can work more collaboratively together on certain projects and activities and that the agency and board can also explore ways to ensure equitable grant funding throughout artistic disciplines and geographic regions.**

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- c. Update on Nevada Arts Council Budget for FY22 and FY23 – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi informed the board that its FY22/23 budget was passed through final committee on May 5, 2021, with no changes to the Governor's approved budget. The FY22 budget authority is \$2.9 million and for FY23, it's \$3.07 million, The budget also includes the full complement of 13 staff positions.**

**The agency has re-hired Michelle Patrick for the Community Arts Development/ADA Coordinator position serving southern Nevada. She begins on June 1st and her experience within the role means that she will “hit the ground running.”**

**The council will be recruiting for its other open positions soon.**

**Board Member Muñoz stated it is great to have more opportunities for people to be viably employed in the arts.**

**Tony Manfredi stated one final point of note on the budget - he is very grateful for the support that the agency received from Governor Sisolak as well as the legislators in establishing and approving its budget.**

**Chair Rappa again, thanked Manfredi and the staff for doing multiple jobs and getting through a really challenging time being down five employees. She acknowledged that in her role as board chair, she has been getting a detailed view of the inner workings of the agency during this period and was grateful for how much work staff has accomplished.**

**Tony Manfredi thanked Gail for her tremendous support during this time. He acknowledged that they have been communicating on a weekly basis and expressed that he cannot thank her enough for all she's meant to him in his role, what she's done for the agency, and in how she has represented the board.**

- d. Updates on American Rescue Plan Act, National Endowment for the Arts

**Tony Manfredi stated that on April 29<sup>th</sup>, the agency had been recommended for an award of \$786,400 in American Rescue Plan funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. They anticipate using the entire amount for sub-grant awards. This amount is almost double what was received in CARES Act funding.**

- e. Update on FY22 Nevada Arts Council Grants – Tony Manfredi

**Gail Rappa stated they were going to skip item “e” because it was discussed during the “capital E” item (previous agenda item) about our grants.**

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### f. Update on National Arts Action Summit – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi stated that members of Team Nevada 21 met with Senator Cortez Masto's staff, Senator Rosen's staff, Representative Horsford's staff, Representative Lee and her staff, and Representative Titus and her staff. They were unable to secure a meeting with Representative Amodei or his staff. Manfred stated that in his time being involved with arts advocacy for the agency, this was the strongest group they had convened and the best meetings he had experienced with our Congressional representatives. They discussed appreciations for NEA funding along with specific bills around art and health, arts in the military, tax policy and charitable giving, arts education, arts and recovery, arts in transit, and the creative economy. The members of Congress and their staff all offered strong support, exhibited an authentic understanding around the importance and significance of the arts and understanding the impact that the pandemic has had on the creative industry in Nevada. Manfredi thanked Board Member Rappa and Board Member Yeandel for their participation.**

**Board Member Yeandel stated that the summit was exciting and that he learned a lot about advocacy. He appreciated the staff and representatives making time for the meetings.**

**Chair Rappa stated she was so grateful to all the participants and that Manfredi did a great job as state captain. She feels relieved and encouraged moving forward in terms of advocacy. Her hope is that everybody, at some point, will be able to either see or hear similar stories about the importance of advocating for the arts on a personal level - how it affects individuals and families in our state, because that's where the real power comes through. She too, thought it was very successful.**

### g. Update on State Poet Laureate – Tony Manfredi

**Tony Manfredi provided some history and information regarding the State Poet Laureate Program and how this new, two-year program will operate and how the position will be appointed and utilized throughout the state. He also stated that Governor Sisolak and his office are very excited about this program.**

**He acknowledged community member Shaun Griffin who has consulted on the position and raised outside funding from community members to fund the role for a year.**

**Manfredi stated that they will offer a \$5,000 project grant each year for the State Poet Laureate program. He shared the qualifications that included having a strong body of poetry work, experience in public readings and spoken word performances, experience in promoting equity and inclusion in the arts and humanities, strong program management, and project planning skills.**

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**Manfredi then informed the board that they had received six eligible applications that are under review. The applicants are Gailmarie Pahmeier, Bruce Isaacson, Jen Nails, David “Olmeca” Barragan, Claudia Keelan, and Pan Pantoja. The review panel is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26th, at 10 a.m. This will be an open meeting. Panelists are Nevada Arts Council Board Member Jovan Johnson, Stephanie Gibson from Nevada Humanities and Community Member Shaun Griffin. Upon completion of the adjudication process, the committee shall present their recommendations of the ranked finalists to the Governor for his review and final appointment.**

**Board Member Salinas stated this is exciting and described a recent experience he had gone through with the Reno Poet Laureate panel review.**

**Board Member Johnson stated it is an impressive group of people and he is excited to be a part of the process and very interested in the outcome.**

**Chair Rappa stated that we will learn a lot on how to continue the program through this process.**

**Tony Manfredi concurred with Chair Rappa. Manfredi thanked staff for rallying around this new initiative as well - especially Stephen Reid whose is managing the program.**

**Chair Rappa seconded that and acknowledged that (at this time) there's only one person in the Artist Services position and that's Stephen. She stated she will be excited to hear the results of the panel and the recommendation to the Governor and what the Governor decides moving forward.**

### **G. Discussion Only – Board Member Updates**

**Board members gave updates on happenings in their community.**

### **H. Discussion Only – Future Agenda Items**

- a. June Board Meeting – Friday, June 25, 2021

**Gail Rappa stated that Manfredi had put down a possible date of Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> for the June Board meeting and asked for an update.**

**Manfredi stated that due to the upcoming Interim Finance Committee he will need to move the proposed June 25 date up to June 11 or June 16. He will send a Doodle Poll to find a date that can work.**

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Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward stated that the Governor's Emergency Directive 006 is scheduled to be lifted June 1<sup>st</sup> and agencies may have to provide a physical location as was required pre-COVID. He continued that as long the agency had a room where the public can go and participate, they are in the clear.

Tony Manfredi thanked DAG Ward for the information and stated that the agency has a space in both the Carson City office and our Las Vegas office where members of the public may attend.

Chair Rappa asked if there was anything else on future agenda items,

Board Member Muñoz asked about timing for the proposed October in-person board meeting in Las Vegas.

Tony Manfredi apologized for the delay in confirming a date and stated that he is finalizing timeframes to see what can work and will get options to the board as soon as possible.

## I. Public Comment

- a. Public comment is welcomed by the Committee. Members of the public who wish to participate during a public meeting may do so by providing public comment during the two designated public comment periods. Additionally, Public comment options may include, without limitation, telephonic or email comment. A period of public comment will be allowed at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
- b. Executive Director to state and read any written public comments that have been received during the meeting.

There was no public comment.

## J. For Possible Action – Adjournment

Gail Rappa adjourned the meeting.