



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: August 18, 2015

Subject

Consider approval of the Library Commission's recommendation for the appointment of Amanda Williamsen as the new Cupertino Poet Laureate.

Recommended Action

Adopt a resolution approving the Library Commission recommendation and appointing the new Cupertino Poet Laureate.

Description

Resolution No. 11-163 designated a Cupertino Poet Laureate and requested the Library Commission to appoint a selection committee to oversee and administer the program including recruitment.

Discussion

In March 2015, the Library Commission formed a sub-committee to identify a candidate for recommendation to the City Council. The term for this non-paid, volunteer position is two years from the date of the appointment.

After an extensive search effort, the sub-committee (consisting of members from the Library Commission, Library Foundation and College communities) has recommended Amanda Williamsen as the Cupertino's third Poet Laureate. Her charge is to stimulate cultural and literacy awareness in Cupertino, introduce youth and adults to the personal and community benefits of poetry both as personal expression and as reflective of our history and culture, reveal, recognize and engage literary talent residing in the community and promote our Library as the cultural center of Cupertino.

Amanda Williamsen is a poet, parent, and educator who have lived in Cupertino for nine years. She has taught writing and literature at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Alabama, Capital University, and Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills. Additionally, she has served as a poet-in-residence for the Nueva School in

Hillsborough, and she has been invited to lead a one-day creative writing workshop at St. Stephen Lutheran School in Mountain View, planned for fall of 2015. Her writing style includes stichic narratives, prose poems, lyric free verse, and traditional sonnets and villanelles, and her work has appeared or is forthcoming in The Fabulist, The Baltimore Review, New Ohio Review, Midwestern Gothic, and other publications. As the Cupertino Poet Laureate, she hopes that one of her projects can be to offer our elders an inspiring forum to create or enhance their memoirs through poetry. She is very excited about becoming our third Poet Laureate and looks forward to promoting poetry in our city.

The Library Commission respectfully requests the City Council to act upon its recommendation.

Sustainability Impact

None

Fiscal Impact

None

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Prepared by: Nidhi Mathur, Web Specialist

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A - Draft Resolution

B – New Poet Laureate bio