



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: December 21, 2010

Subject

Consider a Library Commission proposal to establish a Poet Laureate for Cupertino to stimulate cultural and literacy awareness and reinforce the benefits of poetry to the community.

Recommended Action

Adopt a resolution designating a Cupertino Poet Laureate, and request that the Library Commission appoint a selection committee to oversee and administer the program.

Description

Poets Laureate exist at the Federal, State, County and Municipal levels, but Cupertino has never established an official position. The Library Commission is proposing establishing a Poet Laureate position, and appointing an administrative committee (Attachment A) to select a nominee for the position of Poet Laureate for the Cupertino.

The committee would be composed of the following members:

- Two – Library Commissioners (Chair)
- Two – Fine Arts Commissioners
- One – Friends of the Library representative
- Two – Library Foundation members
- One – DeAnza College English Department representative

The Committee's charge would be to sponsor and develop the program, set forth its purpose, form the committee, identify applicant qualifications, solicit applications, and nominate a citizen no later than April 2011 (National Poetry Month).

The goal of such a program 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.

The Library Commission has approached this concept with the goal of working with the Fine Arts Commission and other community groups interested in pursuing this proposal. They seek direction and approval from Council at this time.

Prepared by: Carol Atwood

Reviewed by:

Approved for Submission by: David W. Knapp, City Manager

Attachments: List of Committee members