

Town Council, Mayor, staff, and to the public watching;

As a founding member of the Arts Commission and a 13-year working member of that commission, I find it very disturbing to hear that a valuable, vibrant and talented member of the current commission, Robin Mckee-Cant was not supported by the Council in her reapplication, and instead the Council chose a complete unknown to replace her.

Of course, a reappointment is never assumed, and members always need to reapply and be interviewed, but when there are no complaints, no issues and no problems, welcoming the sitting member back into the commission to continue their work is always the proper protocol.

In a case where a sitting member of a board or commission is not reelected, there should be an explanation of why. It does not have to be public, but it should be recorded for the benefit of everyone and so as not to allow any hidden agendas by elected officials.

The Arts Commission is always referred to as a "hands-on" board. Maybe that term has been used with too much ease. Unlike other boards that make decisions based on the choices put before them by Town staff, The Arts Commission actually creates the projects and takes the ideas from conception, to development all the way through to implementation. The members DO the WORK and Robin was no exception. Robin brought that enthusiasm 110%, bringing a new vitality to Town events. She deserved to continue her generous and good work for the residents of Yountville.

I want to recognize her here in public, for her sake, for the heart and soul she put into her job. For the sake of the Arts Commission, I want to recognize the upheaval and sadness and pain that this has brought to everyone involved.

I am also choosing to voice my concern over what was really at play here, behind the scenes, because it makes no sense. Once all the numbers were posted for all positions, it all looks suspiciously contrived and we should all be deeply concerned for our town.