

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 17, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Dickter called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:02 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Len Dickter
Vice Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Jim Clarke.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, read comments submitted by:

Denise Neal

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal discussed development in Culver City; establishing a Manchester Bidwell affiliated arts community in Culver City; Bill Strickland; helping people through the arts; helping the homeless; the beautification program in Los Angeles; and she asked that the Commission present the idea to the City Council.

Chair Dickter indicated that he would contact former Commissioner Williams who had researched the topic after Ms. Neal addressed the Commission previously, and he agreed to identify the most appropriate City entity to work with on the item.

Marla Koosed reported on the funeral for Mim Shapiro and discussed her life and legacy noting that she would work to continue Ms. Shapiro's legacy.

Chair Dickter discussed his experiences with Mim Shapiro and he indicated she would be discussed during Items from Commissioners.

Council Member Jim Clarke provided a progress report on the activities of the reconstituted Cultural Affairs Foundation noting that he would be serving on the Advisory Committee after he leaves the City Council.

Chair Dickter thanked Mr. Clarke for the report, noting that he felt the Foundation was poised for great success.

Dr. Janet Hoult thanked the Commission for their support of having her continue until June 2019 as Artist Laureate for Culver City; she questioned whether the Commission had considered having the subcommittee continue to work on the Artist Laureate Program; she reported that the Culver City Centennial Poetry Collection was almost finished; and she indicated that she would be at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at USC from April 21-22.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that the Artist Laureate subcommittee was still in place.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – Update on Development Projects in the City

Chair Dickter invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed discussed development in Culver City and how it affects Cultural Affairs and the Commission; the Art in Public Places Program; the Historic Preservation Program Ordinance; the approximate number of staff hours needed for current developments that trigger Historic Preservation and Public Art Program requirements; she expressed hope that work would be done on the Historic Preservation Program Ordinance; asked that current staffing levels be considered; discussed continued work around the loss of full time staff in 2012; the unsustainable nature of the current situation; she urged Commissioners to reach out to the City Council directly; discussed results of the Creative Economy Report; and she noted the need for more staff.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, read comments submitted by:

Denise Neal

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the overview of development projects; providing input to the Planning Commission; community meetings; Planning Commission and City Council hearings; and Cultural Affairs Commission involvement.

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director, provided an overview of Community Development projects.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding low-income housing; parking; public art; open space; recurring art projects; loss of the redevelopment agency; Tilden Terrace; City Council authorization of affordable housing programs; mandated affordable housing; development incentives; repurposing; debate regarding the appropriate amount of parking to include in projects; encouraging use of alternative

transportation; programmed open space at the Ivy Station; the outdoor venue for activities and events at The Culver Steps; inclusionary subsidized housing; workforce housing opportunities; the number of additional residential units being added to the City; Commission attention to the General Plan Update which is the long range plan for the City over the next 20 years; the number of jobs created in Culver City by new development; unit size; workforce units; covenants; creative place making; public space; providing a venue for art and music festivals; community involvement; accessibility to all members of the community; involvement of artists; ensuring inclusivity; covenants requiring availability to the public; confusion between the Ivy Station and the Ivy Substation; historical references; money in the Cultural Trust Fund earmarked for a gateway art project; appreciation for the collaboration between Cultural Affairs and Community Development; additional projects working their way through the entitlement process; the update of the Historic Preservation Program Ordinance; the CAC's Historic Preservation Ordinance and Program Update subcommittee; City Council direction on how to proceed; the need for a larger, context-based assessment; the Washington/National project; The Culver Steps project; funding for the performance infrastructure in the expanded plaza area; and the importance of a strong relationship with the Planning Division and Community Development Department.

Ron Smoire questioned whether additional staffing had been budgeted to cover the increased workload and how to ensure that staffing is available so that tasks are accomplished.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that Christine Byers and Susan Obrow are not within the Community Development Department; City funding; the City budget process; the City Council agenda process; City Manager support of the Commission; alternative solutions to additional full-time staff; and progress made with staffing and staff flexibility over the past five years.

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Item A-2

CAC – (1) Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee Pertaining to Revising the Structure of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation; 2) Creation of the Ad Hoc FY 2018-2019 Culver City

**Cultural Affairs Foundation Liaison Subcommittee; and 3)
Appointment of Commissioners to that Subcommittee**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: DISSOLVE THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE PERTAINING TO REVISING THE STRUCTURE OF THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the role of the subcommittee to liaise with the Foundation on a regular basis; clarification that the subcommittee would not advise or direct the Foundation; representing the Memorandum of Understanding; assisting the Foundation; appropriate dialog regarding events and opportunities; acting as a conduit to the City; and Brown Act requirements.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PALI, SECONDED BY CHAIR DICKTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CREATE THE AD HOC FY 2018-19 CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT CHAIR DICKTER AND VICE CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN TO THE AD HOC FY 2018-19 CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Dickter invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed Block Party at the Kirk Douglas Theatre and upcoming pay what you want performances of *Ameryka* and *Die Mommy Die*.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed The Culver Studios ribbon cutting ceremony for the new relocated bungalow court.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported procurement of the original film strip for *Panoramic* in the courtyard at City Hall and she indicated that the images were available on the City website.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Fleischer announced the free spring performance of the Loyola Marymount University Chamber Orchestra including the dance department for a site-specific work in the courtyard on April 21; the AVPA performance and fundraiser at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum on May 11; and the Congressional Art Exhibit and Reception on May 12.

Commissioner Pali reported attending an event for the KCRW *Bridges and Walls* program and he announced hosting a mobility and urban planning workshop at SPF:architects on May 8.

Vice Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending the first Block Party at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; indicated that The New American Theatre had taken a new space in Hollywood and would be presenting *Meanwhile Back at the Superlair* in May; reported being a host venue for the Hollywood Fringe Festival; discussed being a member of the Los Angeles Stage Alliance and an Ovation voter; working to build audiences; the non-profit sustainability initiative; attending a roundtable group of theatre and playwrights in Los Angeles County; and community building ideas to help the arts and involve community members.

Commissioner Williams reported teaching a class called Contemporary Art Los Angeles and exposing her students to the arts in Culver City; invited everyone to attend the American Cancer Society California Spirit fundraiser at Sony Pictures

Studios on July 15; and she reported co-curating an event for Equality California from June 27 – July 1.

Chair Dickter reported that he would be meeting with the ESMoA Museum in El Segundo on April 18; serving with Vice Mayor Small on *The Creative Edge* panel at West Los Angeles College on April 21; meeting with Dr. James Limbaugh, Todd Tipton and Framestore to help facilitate dialogue with business leaders to meet employment needs for creative businesses in Culver City; additional work needed on the Los Angeles County Arts Commission panel for the renovation of the new probation center; and discussed recommending that the City Council present a commendation in honor of Mim Shapiro.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding inviting Mim Shapiro's family members to a City Council meeting for the commendation; support of the Commission by Ms. Shapiro; the permanent Public Art Coordinator position; and appreciation for her work to make a difference in the community.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:53 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on May 15, 2018 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

LEN DICKTER
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date