

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION,
CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA

January 13, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called
to order at 7:04 P.M.

Present: Vice Chair Marla Koosed
Commissioner Clement Hanami
Commissioner Luther Henderson
Commissioner Ronnie Jayne

Absent: Chair Gayle Smashey (excused)

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Julie Lugo Cerra.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

None.

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Item C-1

**Consent Calendar
Agenda Posting**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER
HENDERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED (ABSENT CHAIR SMASHEY) TO
RECEIVE AND FILE THE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE POSTING OF
THE AGENDA.

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Item C-2

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANAMI, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED (ABSENT CHAIR SMASHEY) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2008.

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Action Items

Town Hall Meeting

Item A-2

Members of the public are invited to come forward and address the Commission with comments and ideas regarding existing or future Cultural Affairs programs

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED (ABSENT CHAIR SMASHEY) TO REVERSE THE ORDER OF ACTION ITEMS A-1 and A-2 AND OPEN THE TOWN HALL PUBLIC HEARING.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Joan Potter, Vox Femina Los Angeles, announced upcoming events, noting that they were trying to get people to visit restaurants as part of the process.

Stuart Freeman, Culver City Historical Society, was looking forward to working with the City and hoped to bring up the City's rating on the Los Angeles Conservancy's 2008 Preservation Report Card.

Julie Lugo Cerra provided history of the Cultural Affairs Commission and the Culver City Historical Society, and she displayed a recent donation to the Society. She reported on recent exhibits at the Culver City Historical Society's Archives and Resource Center, noted the importance of communication, and suggested ways to proceed in updating the City's Historic Preservation Program, including a survey of historic structures and the ordinance.

Justin Jampol, Wende Museum, provided background on his organization, noting that they specialize in artifacts and archives of the Cold War covering the years 1945-1991 and invited everyone to the museum's film series.

Marlyn Musicant spoke about historic preservation, noting also that she worked at the Getty Research Institute which has tremendous resources. She expressed interest in architectural resources, offered to help in any way she could, and she encouraged the City to move forward with preservation efforts.

Sol and Martha Sigall, Co-Vice Presidents of the Culver City Historical Society Archives, invited everyone to come see the CCHS's displays and provided a brief history of the organization.

Ian Campbell, Beyond Marketing Group and working on the Toyota Scion's Art in Public Places Program, provided background on the program noting that they were looking to give back to the community and he expressed willingness to continue to collaborate with the City on various projects and programs.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, invited everyone to their free City-sponsored concert on January 31st and he described what pieces were included in the program.

Cathy Zermeno, Culver City Historical Society, provided background on the organization and thanked the City for its support.

Jeannine Stehlin, Circus Theatricals Foundation, provided background on her organization and described their programming. She reported that they were looking for a large space in the City for rehearsals and in which to produce plays.

Eric Sims, Kirk Douglas Theatre, was honored to be part of the City and he discussed Center Theatre Group's activities at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Dolores Aguanno, Dee-Lightful Productions, provided background on her organization and spoke of recent and upcoming events.

Diana Tanaka, We Tell Stories, thanked the City for the grant, and she spoke of upcoming events.

Douglas Newton, Culver City Hotel and Culver City Historical Society, presented a Culver City umbrella created by the CCHS as a fundraising item.

Elizabeth Doran, The Actors' Gang, invited the Commission to the opening of their next show, thanked the City for its support, and reported on upcoming events.

Ross Hawkins, Backlot Film Festival, provided background on himself and his organization. He announced that the Backlot Film Festival would be on hold until the end of June due to the difficult economy and he requested the City's endorsement.

James McDemas expressed support for preservation of historic sites within the City and willingness to work with staff to help in any way he could.

Keith Jeffreys, United States Veterans Artists Alliance (USVAA), thanked the City for its support and reported that they were working with The Actors' Gang. He indicated that they would like to see the AmVets building expanded into a full-blown performance space and he reported that they wanted to put on a Shakespeare Festival in the City in one of the parks.

April Fitzsimmons thanked staff for the award of a performing arts grant and she reported that she was currently a part of the USVAA and a member of The Actors' Gang.

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration & Special Projects Coordinator read comment cards submitted by:

Carole Gustin, Culver City Historical Society, who asked for City support of the CCHS and emphasized the importance of preservation; and

Inez Bush, Arts Coordinator for the Culver City Unified School District, who reported that the School District participated in the Arts for All program and she provided information about their goals.

Two additional speakers addressed the Commission:

Mary Ann Greene, Martin Luther King Committee, announced events sponsored by the Committee on January 16-17.

Commissioner Henderson encouraged everyone to attend the Martin Luther King activities.

Steven Rose cited issues with the way the reports had been posted for the meeting; he questioned what type of non-profit the Cultural Affairs Foundation was; he wanted to see a designation regarding which City film studios were historic; he asserted that the ARTWALK benefits private businesses, and he felt that government should not endorse or subsidize private business; he expressed concern that the list of museums posted on the website was incomplete; he pointed out that the 2003 Culver City Fact Sheet in the Community Cultural Plan had not been updated; he asserted that staffing for the Culver City Music Festival had grown disproportionately in relation to the size of the event; and he reported that the Chamber of Commerce had abandoned plans to hold a music concert series in the City as it was too difficult.

Arlette Cardenas, Culver City Chamber Orchestra, thanked the Commission for the grant, she complimented the Kirk Douglas Theatre and staff; and she announced a performance of *A Look Into the Future* on August 16 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Discussion between the Commission and staff included: thanks to the public for their comments; acknowledgement of issues that still need to be addressed; preserving the historical fabric of the City; plans to address problems with downloading the reports; the importance of an annual Town Hall meeting; a suggestion that the Cultural Plan be examined in 2013 to see what goals have been met and how things should be adjusted; updating City information; ensuring that all arts organizations in the City are listed on the website; and acknowledgement of the work still to be accomplished.

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Item A-1

Town Hall Meeting

Staff will open the annual Cultural Affairs Town Hall Meeting by presenting an overview of the proposed Cultural Affairs work plan for 2009, including projects pertaining to the City's Historic Preservation Program, as well as an update on projects completed in 2008

With the aid of slides, staff provided an overview of the proposed Cultural Affairs work plan for 2009 and an update of projects completed in 2008.

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director, provided an overview of the Community Development Department's efforts on updating the Historic Preservation Program, including a city-wide historic structures survey. He explained why the survey was important to the development and permitting process, and he discussed the California Environmental Quality Act, Mitigated Negative Declarations, and Environmental Impact Reports.

Todd Tipton, Redevelopment Administrator, talked about the timeline for the historic survey noting that the goal was to make it inclusionary with public comment encouraged. He summarized each task and sought input from the Commission.

Discussion between the Commission and staff included: clarification that CAC referred to the Cultural Affairs Commission, not the Community Advisory Committee; clarification of staff's role in each task; the ramifications of not updating the historic survey; including stakeholders in the process; clarification that the committee would be a Brown Act Committee; the timing of the survey; the importance of compliance; public outreach; membership of the committee; concerns with the impact on staff; and use of consultants.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Julie Lugo Cerra emphasized the need to protect historic resources and she provided suggestions on the survey process and composition of the advisory committee.

Marlyn Musicant suggested that the advisory committee include an architect and that the Getty Foundation funded summer intern be dedicated to the project.

Stuart Freeman questioned whether there was merit to having a Planning Commissioner participate in the process.

Additional discussion between the Commission and staff included: clarification that a Planning Commissioner would be involved; support for including residential districts; soliciting people with architectural and historic preservation backgrounds; composition of the Committee; and keeping the application process flexible.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANAMI, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT CHAIR SMASHEY) THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACCEPT THE DRAFT CITYWIDE HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY AND UPDATED HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE TIMELINE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE ACRONYM FOR THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE CHANGED; AND REMOVE FROM TASK 2 THE REFERENCE TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, CHANGE AT-LARGE MEMBERS FROM 2 TO 5 AND INCREASE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS FROM 2-3.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration & Special Projects Coordinator, distributed correspondence.

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Items From Staff

None.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioners thanked the Cultural Affairs and Redevelopment Agency staff.

Commissioner Jayne encouraged everyone to attend the Martin Luther King Day celebrations.

Commissioner Henderson echoed previous comments and noted that any cultural entities in the City should make themselves known to the Commission. He expressed pride at the establishment of the Cultural Affairs Foundation which is a 501(c)(3) entity and he discussed the many programs and amenities the City provided to support the arts in Culver City. He pointed out that while the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum were not listed on the website, they are in the Cultural Plan and would be posted on the website when they open in 2010.

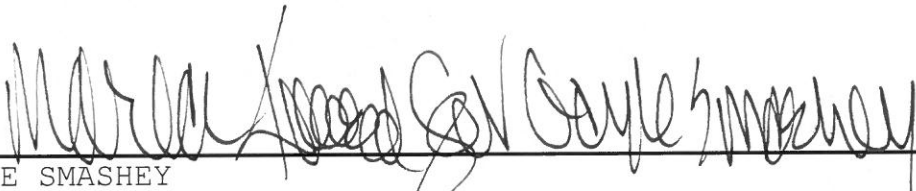
Vice Chair Koosed received clarification that the City Council Subcommittee and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for January 27 and a second meeting would be scheduled in February. She thanked the public for their participation.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:43 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a Regular Meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on February 10, 2009 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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GAYLE SMASHEY
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission

Minutes Preparation: Kristi Callan