

REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 14, 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR ALICIA MILLIKAN

Call to Order
7:06 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Ronnie Jayne; Julie Lugo Cerra; Susan Deen; Luther L. Henderson, III; and, Alicia Millikan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gayle Smashey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; Linda Simmons, Event Supervisor; and Elaine Gerety-Warner, Management Analyst.

Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

It was moved by Commissioner Deen, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

Item #C-2.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Deen and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2005 Regular Meeting.

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There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

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Item #A-1.

Consideration of a Public Art Concept for Veterinary Properties at 9599 Jefferson Boulevard.

7:03 p.m.

Ms. Byers provided a brief staff report on the item and advised that the artist, Brad Howe, was present in the audience to answer any questions.

Commissioner Jayne remarked that the proposed sculpture site is a few blocks from her residence, saying the proposed art work provides a wonderfully optimistic outlook, is fun and sweet, and is appropriate in its planned location.

Mr. Howe commented that he has done a number of pieces for hospitals, saying his mission as an artist is to celebrate life and evoke a sense of joy and optimism.

Commissioner Henderson noted that Mr. Howe's use of shapes and contours is reminiscent of animals, saying the work reflects optimism and joy and provides a nice complement to the surrounding architecture.

Mr. Howe explained that he incorporated various angles to create the perception that the pieces were tumbling in space and that they contained kinetic energy.

Commissioner Deen commented that it is a wonderful piece that makes her smile and she is thrilled it will be placed in an area where many people, especially children, will be able to view it.

Chair Millikan inquired if any thought has been given to safety factors and the possibility that children might be able to crawl through some of the open spaces.

Ms. Byers indicated that the edges of the two sculptures will be sanded and rounded. She deferred to Mr. Howe regarding the size of the openings.

Mr. Howe explained that the sculptures are extremely strong and could easily support the weight of any child who might climb on them. He advised that he sculpted a large piece for an outdoor exhibition at the Navy Pier in Chicago where he gained the practical experience and knowledge that outdoor sculptures will most likely be climbed by enthusiastic individuals, saying strength is not a problem.

Chair Millikan said she is not questioning the structural integrity and has no doubt the piece is sound but she is concerned that children will be tempted to climb it and that it might be possible for a head to become stuck inside one of the openings.

Commissioner Henderson inquired if the work has been reviewed by the appropriate City staff and determined to be as safe as possible.

Ms. Byers advised that Fire, Planning, and Building and Safety staff have all reviewed the artist's renderings for the two sculptures as well as the installation drawings. She asked Mr. Howe about the size of the openings of the elliptical sections of the sculptures.

Mr. Howe assured that he will take this discussion into consideration and ascertain that the apertures are large enough to eliminate any potential worries.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR CERRA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE PROPOSED ART CONCEPT BY BRAD HOWE AS FULFILLING VETERINARY PROPERTIES' PUBLIC ART REQUIREMENT FOR TENANT IMPROVEMENTS AT 9599 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD.

Vice-Chair Cerra remarked that the beauty of these sculptures is not only that they fulfill the public art requirement and are available to be seen and enjoyed by all, but that they are located far enough back on private property, hopefully to prevent vandalism and keep any climbing on them to a minimum. She complimented Mr. Howe, saying the work is very whimsical.

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7:19 p.m.

Items from Staff.

Ms. Gerety-Warner provided information on the upcoming Art of ... speaker series event. She encouraged everyone to attend and noted that although the event is free and open to the public, reservations are required, saying those interested in attending can make reservations by calling (310) 253-5777.

Ms. Simmons announced that the first concert in the *Summer Sunset Music Festival* series will take place on Thursday, June 16th and that July 10th will be the first *Art in the Plaza* event for the year. She invited Commissioner Henderson to report on the *Music in the Chambers* concert series.

Commissioner Henderson advised that the preceding week marked the culmination of four wonderful weeks of *Music in the Chambers*, saying he is extremely pleased to report that the series presented a number of wonderful performers and was very well received.

Ms. Byers indicated that a proposal from the Santa Monica Quilt Guild had been received, saying staff was conducting some follow-up research based on their suggestions and would be bringing the matter back to the Commission.

She advised that a memorandum was distributed to the Commissioners outlining the conservation efforts for *La Ballona*, the artwork in the Heritage Fountain; that she has spoken with Barbara McCarren regarding replacement of the film strip in the camera located in the City Hall courtyard; that cleaning is being planned for sometime in August for Natalie Krol's *Film Strip* at the Veterans' Auditorium Complex and for *Path of Life* at the Senior Center; conservation treatment is also planned for *Cougar I and Cougar II* at Fox Hills; that Public Works annually drains the reflective pool in front of the Veteran's Memorial Complex and will repair and replace some of the burned out lighting at that time; and, that development of a routine maintenance plan is being implemented by staff.

In response to an update request on the changes and reorganization within Center Theatre Group and what effect that might have on the City, Ms. Byers reported that she would be able to provide more information after a scheduled meeting between the Community Development Director, the City Council

Subcommittee and the new Creative Director of Center Theatre Group.

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7:24 p.m.

Items from Commissioners.

Commissioner Henderson expressed appreciation to departing Commissioners Millikan and Cerra, saying it has been a privilege to serve with them as charter members of the Cultural Affairs Commission. He indicated he is very proud of the work they have done over the past four years and believes the CAC has used their expertise to perform a commendable, worthwhile job. He wished them well in the future, noting they will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Jayne echoed Commissioner Henderson's sentiments and thanked Commissioners Millikan and Cerra for guiding her through the learning process, saying she will miss having them on the Commission but is looking forward to welcoming the new Commissioners and continuing on.

Commissioner Deen thanked Commissioners Millikan and Cerra for four wonderful years of common sense, knowledge, and enthusiasm, adding it has been a pleasure working with them. She congratulated Commissioner Henderson for his reappointment and welcomed Commissioner Smashey.

Vice-Chair Cerra stated she is extremely grateful to have been on the Cultural Affairs Commission from its inception. She advised that more than 30 years ago Syd Kronenthal, former Director of Parks and Recreation, sent her to a seminar at Stanford University to gather information for the purpose of forming an art council, noting the City Council at that time was not supportive. She noted that the subsequent years saw the creation of a Public Art Ordinance and an Art Committee and almost simultaneously the Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed in 1991. She mused this might point to everything happening for a reason, saying four years ago the vision of a different Council emerged with a perfect blending of art and history.

She remarked that there is only one starting point on any Commission, which made this an amazing experience in which the Commissioners learned together and developed a respect for one another which she hopes will continue with each subsequent Commission. She declared that everyone has something special and different to bring forward and the net effect can be the dovetailing kind of strength seen in a vintage piece of furniture. She indicated the adoption of the Community Cultural Plan was wonderful and challenging and certainly a major accomplishment that everyone should be extremely proud of.

Vice-Chair Cerra encouraged everyone to continue to read and review the Cultural Plan and update it if necessary. She remarked that community input is invaluable but it ultimately rests with the

Commissioners after receiving that input to do the best they can with the resources available. She declared that accountability, follow-through, and prioritizing are essential, adding if she had the opportunity to do things over again she would have directed that the vice-chair keep an abeyance file. She cautioned it is important to remember that bronze cannot be erased, making it absolutely crucial that things are spelled correctly; noted it is important to communicate and coordinate; and contended that maintaining good historical records is imperative. She declared that keeping files current and cross referenced will ensure that information is always available and easy to access both now and in future generations.

Vice-Chair Cerra avowed that her decision not to request a second term does not indicate she has lost interest. She is still the City Historian and will be available to provide assistance, saying she hopes staff will copy her on historic preservation issues as a courtesy and, likewise, she will gladly share any information. She expressed much gratitude to staff for all their hard work, noting the last nearly four years have been a challenge but everyone rose to the occasion and should be very, very proud of all the accomplishments that have been made.

Chair Millikan echoed much of what Vice-Chair Cerra stated with regard to the work ahead and shared her sentiments about having been on the Cultural Affairs Commission at its inception, saying she seriously underestimated how difficult and challenging a process it would be. She indicated she learned a great deal and has met many wonderful individuals who have brought their own strengths and talents to the process, saying she is thankful to all the extraordinary people, from staff to volunteers, who shared their wealth of knowledge. She declared that Culver City is extremely fortunate to have such a talented, committed, and passionate staff and noted the same can be said of her fellow Commissioners who have also shown an enormous amount of passion, enthusiasm, and dedication.

She professed that not everyone is fortunate enough to realize their heart's desire but she certainly has with the establishment of the Cultural Affairs Commission and being able to serve on the Commission. She noted her one regret is that she will not be on the Commission for the establishment of the 501(c)(3) but trusts it will remain a priority and looks forward to that being accomplished. She advised that if there is anything she can assist with as things go forward such as fund-raising, development, or grant writing she is definitely available as a resource much as Vice-Chair Cerra will continue to be a resource when it comes to historic preservation.

Chair Millikan congratulated Commissioner Henderson on his reappointment and declared she has full faith in the new Commission appointments. She concluded by saying she would not have traded this experience for anything, saying she is extremely grateful to the Council who first appointed her and

hopes she has made them proud.

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7:47 p.m.

Adjournment.

With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR CERRA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:47 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Millikan, Chair

Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter

City of Culver City, California
Certification of Documents by the City Clerk

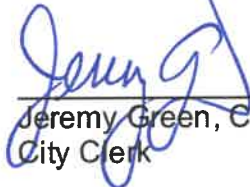
I, Jeremy Green, being the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Culver City, California hereby depose and declare

The 6 pages of the Cultural Affairs Commission Approved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2005 attached hereto are true and correct copies of documents in the possession of the City of Culver City.

I have affixed the Seal of the City of Culver City, California to indicate they are such true and correct copies.

Certified on this 7th day of March, 2022.

BY:



Jeremy Green, CMC
City Clerk

