

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Koosed called meeting of the Cultural Affairs
Commission to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Marla Koosed
Vice Chair Regina Klein
Commissioner Len Dickter
Commissioner Thomas Small
Commissioner John B. Williams

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rich Cherry.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Koosed invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the
Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult reported that the City Council had considered the creation of an Honorary Poet Laureate position in the City; discussed working with the Commission to add the literary component; indicated that she had started work on the issue; discussed the Centennial and using the historical timeline as the basis for the poetry; criteria, duties and responsibilities for the position; and she reported that she would be starting a poetry group at the Senior Center and also at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum.

Chair Koosed noted that the item would be on the agenda for the June Commission meeting with consideration of the formation of an ad hoc subcommittee; discussed working

collaboratively; noted that the work would not involve staff; and she expressed support for the work of Dr. Hoult.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and Dr. Hoult regarding the practices of similar sized cities and cities nearby; encouragement to have the Poet Laureate work with the Culver City Unified School District; accelerating the process; materials submitted to the City Council; sharing of information; and the packet for the June agenda item.

Rich Cherry reported that he had applied to be a Commissioner and he provided background on himself.

Chair Koosed indicated that Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda was available every month and she encouraged people to take advantage of it.

John B. Williams made a statement suggesting that the Cultural Affairs Commission meetings could be a gathering place for artists of all media and a place for performing arts grantees to preview their work or for resident performing arts organizations to promote upcoming performances; and he provided a short selection of spoken word and music that he played on the bass.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion that such performances could act as a type of invocation for the meeting; appreciation to Commissioner Williams for the performance; rebroadcasting performances; the former *Music in the Chambers* series; limitations; permission; performing excerpts; extending the opportunity to all areas of Cultural Affairs; setting a tone reminding the Commission why they are present; formulating a simple release form; the formal public comment period; seceding time; fluidity and flexibility within the structure; and Commissioners were encouraged to bring people to the meetings.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SMALL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2015.

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Action Items

Item A-1

REVIEW CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR FY 2015-16 AND PROVIDE COMMENTS

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the City Manager's proposed 2015-2016 Cultural Affairs budget; discussed the process; and carryover amounts.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed the Performing Arts Grant Program and the Cultural Facility Enhancement budget.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the typical total for Performing Arts Grants; carry over funds; Cultural Facility Enhancement money; unencumbered money; the Granicus system; budget software; appreciation to the City Manager for including Historic Preservation and the Creative Economy Report in the work program; part-time contractual support; budgeted administrative positions; partnering with Finance; allocating money out of the Cultural Trust Fund for Fund Administration; using graduate student interns; other available resources; staff development opportunities; there are no additional full-time Cultural Affairs staff in the budget; the amount of time that will be given by the Finance Department liaison toward the development of the Creative Economy Report; the importance of dialogue; background on the part time contractual support

person; tracking permits for Art in Public Places; institutional knowledge; increased efficiency; priorities; making a public commitment to getting things done; meetings with City Council Members prior to the City Manager submitting the budget; appreciation for individual Commissioner statements regarding the FY 2015-16 budget; encouragement to continue communication with the City Council; development in the City; the historic preservation component; staff workload; land use; getting to know the new Commissioners; ensuring that everyone is on the same page; working together as a unified unit; and opportunities to gather socially but clarification that no business can be discussed unless it occurs at a publicly noticed meeting.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMALL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REVIEW THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET AND PROVIDE COMMENTS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Koosed invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, provided an update on recent and upcoming 2015 Culver City Performing Arts Grant performances; she discussed how the program supports the growth of local performing arts organizations; the Cultural Facility Enhancement Fund; stage lighting in Veterans Memorial Auditorium; and she agreed to provide contact information for grant recipients to Commissioner Williams.

Commissioner Small received further clarification on the proposed lighting plan for Veterans Auditorium.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed making the Council Chambers more technically friendly for performances; the mixing of the old and new systems in connection with the agenda; meeting with Commissioners Dickter and Small on April 27 to discuss Historic Preservation; she anticipated an item going forward soon to the City Council related to updating the Historic Preservation program in the municipal code; the recent meeting of the Public Art Subcommittee of the Commission; she announced the third Architecture Talks on June 7 at WHY to benefit Veterans Auditorium technical enhancement; she discussed action items on the June Commission agenda; the upcoming Cultural Affairs Foundation meeting in June; and the Americans for the Arts Conference.

Commissioner Dickter discussed the making a promotional film about Culver City; a potential screening at Helms Bakery; visual branding; and he asked for input and suggestions on how the film could be used.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding using the film as a tool for the Cultural Affairs Foundation; the timeline for completion; updating the projection system at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; a suggestion to show the film at the Pacific Theatres; economic development; the Chamber of Commerce; and the film as a test run for the Creative Economy Report.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that the restoration of *Truth or Fiction* had been completed and she reported that she would be pausing on art restoration until the Creative Economy Report could be brought back on track.

Chair Koosed received clarification regarding illumination of the artwork during the day.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioner Small reported on recent performances that he attended including the Tribute to the Stars on the Sony lot; the district-wide PTA Awards program; the L.A. Conservancy

Awards luncheon; and he discussed the talent of Culver City architect Kulapat Yantrasast.

Chair Koosed announced the next architecture talk scheduled for June 7 at WHY with proceeds to benefit the technical enhancements at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; discussed marketing for the event; reported attending the Young Audiences program at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; reported the opening of Edward Cella Fine Art; and she noted that Merry Norris had a pop-up exhibition space through the end of May within the gallery.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:45 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on June 9, 2015 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

MARLA KOUSED
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.

Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK

Date