

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 11, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Wayne and Marla Koosed.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Vice Chair Klein invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Bob Wayne, Fiesta La Ballona Committee, invited everyone to attend and volunteer at Fiesta La Ballona from August 28-30 and he discussed events and entertainment.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and Mr. Wayne regarding parking; the availability of a free bike valet; alternative transportation; appreciation for the event and the work of the volunteers; ride tickets; and the new farmer's market area.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMALL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 14, 2015. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: CHERRY, KLEIN, SMALL, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: DICTER

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Action Items

Item A-3
(Out of Sequence)

Receive and File Public Comment Regarding the Creation of the Position of Honorary City Poet Laureate

Vice Chair Klein invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed reported that former Commissioner Susan Anderson urged the Commission to do research on the subject; Ms. Koosed discussed the City of Los Angeles's Poet Laureate Program; evaluation of other Poet Laureate programs around the country; she reported forwarding information to staff and subcommittee members; suggested modeling the Poet Laureate program after the Performing Arts Grant program; offering a stipend to the Poet Laureate for the amount of work that is required based on benchmarks; discussed the Cultural Trust Fund; and staff support for the program.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Koosed for her thoughts and research.

Dr. Janet Hoult discussed research she had done into other California cities; noted the population difference between

Los Angeles and Culver City; she expressed concern with awarding an honorarium; noted that in other cities with comparable populations no honoraria were available; discussed the selection process; outlining duties of the Poet Laureate; work with the Culver City Centennial Celebration Committee; the importance of choosing someone who has been part of the City for a long time; and the importance of the literary arts.

Commissioner Cherry requested a copy of previously distributed information.

Charles Hoult suggested that the Commission recommend to the City Council that all forms of the literary arts be included in the City Charter.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to the speakers for their input; the importance of the literary arts; resources for lifelong learning; upcoming subcommittee meetings; next steps in the process; and correspondence received.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

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Item A-1

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2015/2016

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed procedures.

Vice Chair Klein invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed felt that the selection of Chair and Vice Chair as well as the formation of subcommittees would set the tone for the year, and she noted that Commissioners would be working on the budget, the Creative Economy Report and the revision of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Commissioner Williams nominated Vice Chair Klein to serve as Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission for Fiscal Year 2015/2016. Commissioner Dickter inquired what agenda Vice Chair Klein proposed to implement as Chair of the Commission.

Vice Chair Klein provided background on her experience on and off the Commission and her intentions and goals for the Commission.

Commissioner Dickter discussed the approved work plan; the importance of engaging the community; work done by the Commission for the past year; he expressed concern with squandering an opportunity to improve the value of the Commission and obtain more staff; wanted to see the Commission be action oriented; and he indicated the desire to nominate himself to serve as Chair of the Commission.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding the strengths of each Commissioner; the Brown Act; and differing visions.

Commissioner Small nominated Commissioner Dickter to serve as Chair of the Commission.

Further discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding processes associated with City government; tenure; priorities; structuring the meetings to enable forward motion; proving the value of the Commission; following legal avenues for discussion and deliberation; the importance of transparency and collaboration; working with other Commissions; the energy of new Commissioners; maximizing resources; the Culver City Centennial Celebration Committee; creation of the agenda; ways to work within the confines of the Brown Act; previous meetings between Vice Chair Klein and Council Members, as well as community members and facility providers to investigate and facilitate additional opportunities to meet; concern with use of staff time; the dissolution of the former Culver City Redevelopment Agency; staff reductions; the previously held Town Hall meetings; engaging the community; the creative business community; attendance of Commission meetings by the public; the public face of the Commission; advocacy and education; bringing in ideas for discussion; areas to excel; determining the cultural landscape; points of cultural interest; bringing ideas back; creating alliances; prioritization; steady forward movement; coordination between the Foundation and the

Commission; advocacy; establishing a strategic plan and a timeline; accountability; instances where the Commission is bypassed; getting more staff by proving worth; the Creative Economy Report; economic benefit to the City; time commitment of the Chair; expanding the cultural blueprint of the City; measuring outcomes; becoming solutions oriented on the Commission; and grants.

Vice Chair Klein discussed work done while serving as the Vice Chair and as a member of the Foundation; seeds planted; work in progress; and the need to strengthen alliances.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding procedures; room for everyone to advocate for the Commission and strengthen ties; whether to discuss the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair as a whole; and the role of the Chair and Vice Chair as members of the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Commissioner Williams nominated Vice Chair Klein to serve as Chair and Commissioner Dickter to serve as Vice Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission.

Further discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding achieving Commission consensus as much as possible; an alternative suggestion that Commissioner Dickter serve as Chair and Vice Chair Klein continue as Vice Chair; and the importance of having the discussion.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT REGINA KLEIN TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND LEN DICKTER TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016.

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Item A-2

(1) Dissolution of the Ad Hoc 2015 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; (2) Creation of the Ad Hoc 2016 Culver City Performing Arts Grants Program Subcommittee; and (3) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees for Fiscal Year 2015/2016

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material record and discussed ways to proceed.

Chair Klein invited public comment. The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed suggested combining the Performing Arts Grant program with the City's centennial; incorporating language regarding the centennial into the grant program's Notice of Funding Availability; incorporating the centennial logo into any Performing Arts Grant Program publicity material; she reported on a suggestion by Council Member Sahli-Wells regarding a combined meeting between the City Council, Cultural Affairs Commission and the Foundation; and she suggested that such a meeting take place once the Creative Economy Report has been completed and the 2016/2017 budget cycle commences.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the idea of combining the Performing Arts Grant Program with the centennial celebration and coordinating the Poet Laureate Program with centennial events; appreciation to Ms. Koosed for her suggestions; grant applicants for creative writing and screen writing; specific requirements for the Performing Arts Grant Program; subcommittee review to see if literary arts would meet the criteria; the public performance requirement; writing as the foundation for performing arts; spoken word initiatives; programs that utilize writing and involvement in literature as part of their concept or charter; a new publication on the history of Culver City; past spoken word grantees; storytelling; deadlines; the grant cycle; and creating an Office of Poet Laureate to serve as an umbrella for certain activities.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SMALL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION DISSOLVE THE AD HOC 2015 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CREATE THE AD HOC 2016 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Commissioner preferences for subcommittee service.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. AD HOC 2016 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM
SUBCOMMITTEE: CHAIR KLEIN AND COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, AND;
2. AD HOC CULVER CITY CREATIVE ECONOMY REPORT: VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND COMMISSIONER CHERRY, AND;
3. AD HOC HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PROGRAM UPDATE:
VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND COMMISSIONER SMALL, AND;
4. AD HOC HONORARY CITY POET LAUREATE: COMMISSIONERS SMALL
AND WILLIAMS, AND;
5. STANDING PUBLIC ART: COMMISSIONERS SMALL AND WILLIAMS

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Klein invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal suggested that the Commission contact William Strickland of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation to inquire if any of his programs for disadvantaged youth could be appropriate for Culver City.

Discussion ensued between the speaker and Commissioners regarding appreciation for her suggestion; follow up information; programs available; the Manchester Bidwell Corporation; and sharing the information with the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

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Items From Staff

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, announced upcoming performances by Culver City Performing Arts Grant recipients; she reported that the application for the 2016 Performing Arts Grant Program had been posted to the City website; announced that Culver City would be hosting a free workshop to assist organizations in completion of the Performing Arts Grant application in the Veterans Memorial Building on August 13; she discussed Cultural Affairs items considered at the August 10 City Council meeting; and she reported on the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams announced his travel schedule noting that he would like to schedule subcommittee meetings before his trip.

Commissioner Cherry inquired about assisted listening devices for Council Chambers; asked for additional information regarding the book about Culver City's history; and inquired as to the status of the proposed change in the Commission meeting schedule.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding follow up on information regarding assisted listening devices; the request from the Culver City Unified School District to change the meeting time; City Council consideration at the end of September; and additional considerations to changing the date with regard to future Commission meetings.

Commissioner Small reported on the Cities for Tomorrow Conference; discussed public/private partnerships; where new economic growth will come from; and Nextdoor's service for public agencies.

Vice Chair Dickter discussed community building; inclusion; advocacy; and using the Internet to share ideas and collaborate.

Chair Klein wanted to see an archive of lost ideas that have been presented including suggestions made at the last Town Hall meeting; she discussed collecting ideas; proposals submitted; logging new ideas as they arise; the Creative Economy Report; the meeting time for the Culver City Centennial Celebration Committee; and she reported attending a recent Actors Gang performance.

Commissioner Cherry discussed identifying speakers to come speak at the Commission meetings; attracting people to attend Commission meetings; special events; and measuring online views.

Commissioner Small discussed the L.A. River project; Ballona Creek Renaissance; and attracting people to attend Commission meetings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding coordination with other Commissions; joint meetings; regular conferences and events in the City; utilizing media outlets to promote topics on the agenda for Commission meetings; keen interest from local businesses in the cultural vibrancy of the City; providing opportunities and providing mutual benefit; encouragement to have people email comments to the Commission after meetings; taking the pulse of the community through social media; the procedures followed by City Council; social media opportunities and staff time; personal connections; having a Cultural Affairs Twitter account; the Foundation; creating a 12-month calendar of upcoming events; private events vs. City events; planning; taking advantage of resources and opportunities; collaboration on creating the calendar; the point person to coordinate; and a suggestion to agendaize a discussion of how to create a system to integrate information.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:18 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on September 8, 2015 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

REGINA KLEIN
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