

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

October 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jai Pal Khalsa.

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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 Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Jayne, and unanimously passed to receive and file the Secretary's Report on the Posting of the Agenda.

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Item C-2

Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Koosed expressed concern that comments she made about the Culver City Music Festival had been left out of the minutes and she requested that the second sentence on

page 5 be changed to read: "She also asked about the status of the Culver City Music Festival sub-committee and expressed dismay at the delay since this issue was first raised in May; Vice Chair Koosed was pleased that the Foundation was now officially a 501(c)(3)."

Moved by Commissioner Jayne, seconded by Vice Chair Koosed, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of August 12, 2008 as amended.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of a Public Art Concept for 3823, 3827, & 2833 Huron Avenue

Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Christine Byers provided a brief summary of the material of record.

Commissioner Hanami reported that the CAC's Public Art sub-committee had examined shortcomings of the City's policies and procedures on how art proposals are submitted and felt it would be beneficial for the process to be initiated earlier so the artist can work in collaboration with the architects during design development. He noted that this project fulfilled all the requirements and was well articulated.

Discussion between the Commission, staff, the architect and the artist included: background on how the project came about; lighting design and landscaping plans to complement the art work; building design; design features; art work themes; research on various types of Spanish-inspired ornament; working within the budget; specific colors; the interaction of the tile with water; background on the company providing the tiles; walkways and handicapped access ramps; changes to the design; plans for replacing the sidewalk; trowel patterns on the driveway; and tile, ironwork, sheet metal, trellis elements and repeating patterns.

Further discussion included: the fact that while fitting the criteria for public art as outlined in the City's Municipal Code, the project is not what comes to mind when one thinks of public art; wood grain; color choices; the

type of wood used in floors throughout the building; functional art; frustrations with exactly the 1% minimum for public art being submitted as the project budget; design, fabrication, installation, and maintenance costs; clarification that maintenance costs would be part of the CC&Rs and assumed by the homeowners association; concern about the slip resistance of the tiles; concerns with longevity of the art and with compromises in the design as it is maintained; latitude with replacement; a suggestion that the artist and/or architect meet with the homeowners; storage of excess materials onsite for future maintenance purposes; the fact that the design can be re-created; a suggestion that developers would be willing to invest more than the minimum 1% for public art requirement; a completion photograph for use as a measure for annual maintenance; benefits of providing the City with information about how the piece was manufactured and should be maintained and whether or not other artists were consulted; the decision to move forward with the project vs. paying the in lieu fee into the Art Fund; and having the artist make presentations at the sub-committee meeting and at the Commission meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Henderson and seconded by Commissioner Hanami to approve the design concept for ceramic tiles to cover five walkways as fulfilling the City's Art in Public Places requirement for a development project at 3823, 3827, & 2833 Huron Avenue. The discussion continued.

Further discussion focused on whether there was a guarantee that the tiles would be sturdy enough to withstand blunt force that could be associated with residents moving in heavy furniture and appliances, and an explanation that major appliances would already be installed and the design of the units makes it more convenient for people to load in through their garages.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Hanami, Henderson, Jayne and Chair Smashey
NOES: Koosed

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Byers reported that letters forwarded to the CAC addressing certain historic preservation issues would be addressed at a later date.

A discussion between staff and the Commission followed about: proper notification; fulfilling the legal requirements for notification; cancellation of the September meeting per a request from the Chamber of Commerce for additional time to comment on the items; postponement of the historic preservation item until November so Community Development Director Sol Blumenfeld could participate; City Attorney presence at the November meeting; an assertion that a different item should have been considered in September rather than canceling the meeting; that the Commission should be able to consider the item even if others are not prepared to move forward; clarification that the item is still at the staff level involving Community Development and the City Attorney's office; meetings with stakeholders; the learning curve involved in the process; and ramifications of meeting vs. not meeting.

Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Byers reported receiving correspondence from Roland Para who has a collection of old MGM title art for sale and she provided copies for the Commission. Staff recommended forwarding the information to the Culver City Historical Society to see if they had interest in it.

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Items From Staff

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Susan Obrow announced a performance by Lion's Pounce Dance Theater, a 2008 Performing Arts grantee, on October 18-19 at 2 p.m. on the basketball court of Culver City Park. She reported on the 14 applicants for the 2009 Culver City Performing Arts Grant; noted that the peer review panel would meet on October 21 to review applications with sub-committee

members; explained the composition of the sub-committee; and indicated that the full commission would review recommendations at the November meeting.

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Obrow announced an event, *Speak Easy*, on Friday, November 21, at 8:00 p.m. with Patrice Rushen and Sandra Tsing Loh, and she summarized work being done by the Cultural Affairs Foundation which is scheduled to meet again on January 27, 2009. She also reported that the Redevelopment Agency Board had approved repair for maintenance and replacement of Agency-owned lighting and sound equipment at the Ivy Substation.

Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Byers reported: that Park Century School had completed their public art; Pulp Studios fabricated the trees and stars and a photograph of the completed art work had been forwarded to staff; the estimated completion of the repair of Ed Carpenter's *Hanging Garden* is at the end of November; and she reviewed the status of the proposed public art installation for the 2008 California Biennial.

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Items From Commissioners

Vice Chair Koosed reported attending Center Theatre Group performances of "House of Blue Leaves" and "This Beautiful City" and she asked about the status of the Culver City Music Festival.

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Obrow reported that staff was in the process of an internal review, they will meet with the City Manager for guidance, and she noted that staff would prepare a report and provide more information in November.

Discussion between staff and the Commission included: concern that the Commission have substantive input into the process; the timeline for the Music Festival; whether there were significant changes to the Cultural Affairs budget; a request for an update of the Cultural Affairs budget at the next meeting; and an update on the California Cultural Data project was requested and provided.

Commissioner Henderson reported on a recent trip to New York City where he attended the Luther Henderson Scholarship Fund Day, named for his father.

Chair Smashey expressed concern about the Commission being left out of the Culver City Music Festival process.

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Obrow indicated that Redevelopment Agency staff was aware of the Commission's interest and aware of the time constraints.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:03 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a Regular Meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on November 11, 2008 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