

REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 13, 2007
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Presiding: Susan Deen

Call to Order
7:05 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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Roll Call

Present: Susan Deen; Ronnie Jayne; Luther Henderson, III;
and Gayle Smashey.

Absent: Commissioner Hanami.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Culver City's Historian,
Julie Lugo Cerra.

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Staff Present Christine

Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation
Coordinator; and Susan Obrow, Performing Arts Coordinator &
Special Events Producer.

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7:06 p.m.

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Julie Lugo Cerra, Culver City Historian, congratulated the Commission on the banners on Washington Boulevard as a great example of combining history and public art. She reported on Culver City Historical Society activities and noted that a lease had been signed for the new space at the Veteran's Memorial Complex. She added that the Society was involved with plans to celebrate the City's 90th birthday in September 2007 and she urged staff and the Commission to utilize e-mail as a valuable communication tool to let people know what events are happening in the City.

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Item #C-1
7:11 p.m.

Agenda Posting

Moved by Commissioner Smashey, seconded by Commissioner Jayne and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for

this meeting.

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Item #C-2
7:11 p.m.

January 9, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of January 9, 2007 as written.

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Item #A-1
7:11 p.m.

Update on Maintenance/Conservation of Public Art

Ms. Byers provided a summary of the material of record noting that there were approximately 80 individual pieces of public art in Culver City. Of these, two or three are still under construction, approximately half are on private property and the other half are owned by the City. She reported that approximately \$95,000 from the Art Fund is appropriated for maintenance and conservation of art work for this fiscal year, but due to the many costly projects at hand, staff anticipates requesting additional funding for the new fiscal year.

With the aid of slides, Ms. Byers presented examples of conservation treatments that had been completed and she explained the process and the schedule for future maintenance and conservation work. She reported that an inventory of art on public property had been conducted and once the artwork on City property has been fully addressed staff would be notifying property owners about properly maintaining art work on their property because failure to do so is a code violation.

Responding to Commissioner Henderson, Ms. Byers explained that clear, specific language exists to address maintenance obligations on the initial application intake form and in the City's Municipal Code. Covenants that are filed with the Los Angeles County Recorder also specify the maintenance requirement.

The Commission discussed the cost of maintenance so far and future costs and scheduling. Ms. Byers reported that the City's Graffiti Control division addressed most basic graffiti issues, but in extreme examples such as the mural behind the public library, the graffiti could no longer be removed as the

anti-graffiti coating had not been properly maintained by the City. She indicated that the artist had provided a detailed proposal in the fall of 2006 for restoring this mural.

Responding to Chair Deen, Ms. Byers explained that if property owners fail to maintain their art she will seek guidance from the City Attorney's Office regarding enforcement. She added that different conservators were being contracted for different pieces of art work and the City had detailed treatment reports for those pieces that are already being maintained.

Commissioner Smashey noted that the intern was inventorying art on private property and she questioned whether the same was being done for publicly owned art work.

Ms. Byers explained that City-owned art work is currently being addressed by staff as the individual pieces are being maintained.

Commissioner Jayne noted they were paying the price for deferred maintenance and she hoped that the City was using knowledge gained from past mistakes made.

Ms. Byers noted unfair criticism of Ed Carpenter as he was not responsible for the deterioration of the framework supporting his art work at City Hall.

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**Item #A-2
Update on Art and Public
Places Ordinance**

Update on Art in Public Places Ordinance

Ms. Byers presented the material of record noting that staff was working to ensure that the Art in Public Places Ordinance was keeping current with national and regional standards in the field. She stated that various issues being researched included: ADA accessibility; procedures for relocating art work; a gifts policy; maintenance; criteria and process for selecting artists and art work; whether sound installations should be included as viable art forms; landscape as art; architecture as art; using art consultants for large development projects; and the minimum amount allocated for public art for each development project.

Ms. Byers indicated that she would work to come up with viable examples, draft language and then meet with the CAC Public Art sub-committee.

Commissioner Smashey commended staff on the whirlwind of activity in the past week and she was excited to be involved in the West Washington Boulevard art project and see it come to fruition. She enjoyed the Music in the Chamber series and loved the brand name "Cultural City."

Responding to Commissioner Smashey, Ms. Byers reported plans to produce a booklet to memorialize the banner project on Washington Boulevard.

Commissioner Henderson questioned the City's policy on gifts of art work.

The Commission discussed the policy for gifts of artwork and Ms. Byers suggested that the Public Art sub-committee would study that further together with review by the City Attorney, the entire Cultural Affairs Commission and finally the City Council.

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Public Comment

Mim Shapiro reported that maintenance of art work had been a problem in the past because there was no dedicated staff.

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Receipt of Correspondence

None.

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Items from Staff

Susan Obrow reported on recent past and upcoming events. She announced the new campaign to brand the City as "Cultural City" and she presented the new 2007 pocket calendars with performance information by Culver City performing arts grant recipients as part of a strong effort to help grant recipients market themselves. She also noted

efforts to get the performing arts calendar on-line via the City's web site.

Ms. Obrow indicated that the Culver City Art District was the focus of a March 8, 2007 cover story for the Los Angeles Times weekend section with maps and listings of the galleries.

She reported on pending projects, including plans to celebrate the City's 90th anniversary and she updated the Commission on the status of the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Ms. Byers reported that she and Ms. Obrow were two of the few representatives from Los Angeles County attending the California Arts Council meeting in Sacramento where the Chairman of National Endowment for the Arts spoke. She added that the proposed 2007-2009 budget had been submitted internally and would be brought to the Commission as soon as possible.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Smashey noted that she had spoken out of turn earlier and so she would not speak at this time.

Commissioner Jayne reported attending many recent Cultural Affairs events and that she was looking forward to future events. She appreciated the art installation on Washington Boulevard.

Commissioner Henderson commended staff for putting together the pocket calendar, asked for an update on the status on the AMVETS Property, reported that he and Chair Deen were involved in a sustainability committee recently established by the City, noted issues with the City Council video operations system, asked for the balance and status of the Art Fund, and suggested using pictures of Culver City -- then and now -- for the 90th anniversary.

Ms. Byers agreed to pass on the request for historical images to the City Historian and the Culver City Historical Society and added that the City's Transportation Department would be doing a bus wrap for the 90th anniversary featuring historical photographs. She noted that detailed Art Fund reports had

not been available for about a year but the Art Fund balance was approximately \$700,000 which included currently budgeted projects. She added that the City had received approximately \$149,000 worth of payments into the Art Fund for this fiscal year.

Ms. Obrow provided an update on the AMVETS building noting that Trevor Daily, Field Representative for Senator Dianne Feinstein, supported the AMVETS project but because of the slow pace of Federal funding, he suggested the City formally request an appropriation. She reported that the City submitted a request for \$1.7 million for the AMVETS project and staff is currently awaiting a response.

Chair Deen announced the first quarterly meeting of the Culver City Homeowner's Association on Thursday, March 15 at Veterans Auditorium and she indicated that she would distribute the 2007 pocket calendars there.

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8:34 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Jayne, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 P.M. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall.

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SUSAN DEEN, CHAIR

KRISTI CALLAN
Minutes Reporter