

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 19, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Klein called meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

Absent: Commissioner Rich Cherry

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marla Koosed.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Klein invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult reported on the meeting with the ad hoc subcommittee to work on the Artist Laureate program; discussed incorporating artists with disabilities in future activities including the Centennial and the Disability Carnival; reported on the work of senior citizens in the Word Painting Poetry class; she asked Commissioner Small to read a poem written by one of the students; and she invited everyone to the Poet Tea on May 4.

Commissioner Small read *Kindness - For You And You And for You* by Marcia Wilde.

Chair Klein thanked Commissioner Small and Dr. Janet Hoult for bringing poetry to the meeting.

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance, discussed their relationship with the Cultural Affairs Commission; murals along Ballona Creek; the restoration of the *Rivers of the World* mural along the creek at Duquesne Avenue; work with the Centennial Committee; the Ballona Creek gateway at Sepulveda Boulevard; new gateways; work with the Culver City Bicycle Coalition; events along the creek; collaborative events with schools; visual presentations; and he indicated that more information is available at ballonacreek.org and on Facebook.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and Mr. Lamm regarding plans for the Centennial and the Commission agreed to place an item on a future agenda for a presentation on Ballona Creek Renaissance.

Marla Koosed congratulated Commissioner Small on his election to the City Council; she expressed hope that he would advocate for additional staffing for Cultural Affairs; and she discussed the upcoming budget meetings.

Vice Chair Dickter indicated that the Commission looked forward to collaborating with future Council Member Small in communicating the importance of Cultural Affairs to the community and he congratulated Commissioner Small on his election.

Commissioner Small indicated that he believed in the importance of Cultural Affairs as an effective force on behalf of the City and he discussed the Mayor's State of the City address last month.

Ashley Rodgers provided an update on the *Culver City News* article scheduled for publication on April 29; reported the second article would be written by Vice Chair Dickter; and she indicated that the first article was light hearted and meant to engage the public and introduce the work of the Commission with future articles to become more nuanced and issues explored in greater depth.

Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, KLEIN, SMALL, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CHERRY

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Receive FY 2015-16 Cultural Affairs Work Program Updates; 2) Review the Proposed FY 2016-17 Cultural Trust Fund Budget for Cultural Affairs; and, 3) Provide Comments and Make Recommendations to City Manager

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, and Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of collective Cultural Affairs activities and accomplishments since July 2015.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, announced a performance by Vox Femina Los Angeles at the Culver City Presbyterian Church on April 24 and she announced a Los Angeles County Arts Commission Town Hall meeting on June 18 at Veterans Memorial Building.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding moving forward with updating the City's Historic Preservation Program; the status of the Creative Economy Report; staffing levels; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Intern for Los Angeles County Arts Commission Summer Internship Program; part time work performed by Gayle Smashey for the Performing Arts Grant Program;

experience and expertise; the projected increase in the Cultural Trust Fund as part of new developments; and the partnership with LACAC for the Town Hall meeting.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, and Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed the Cultural Trust Fund balance; the Costco expansion and the associated Art in Public Places Program in-lieu payment; increases to revenues; pending permits; proposed appropriations for FY 2016-2017; capital projects; the possibility of another recession in the future; Fund Administration; Membership and Dues; License Agreements; Other Contractual Services; Performing Arts Grant funding for the Centennial year; volunteers; Los Angeles County Summer Arts Interns; the contractor for the Performing Arts grants; Cultural Facility Enhancement; Art Maintenance; Temporary Art Displays and Exhibits; Historic Designation Plaques; the Art Conservation Restoration Program; retrofitting *The Lion's Fountain*; moving one of the a zoetropes; possible relocation of the Harry Culver monument; historic preservation consulting services; new public art; public art for Washington/ National; Lowe Enterprises; public art for the new Higuera Street bridge and bike ramp; grant monies; the Cultural Trust Fund; and updating the Cultural Plan.

Chair Klein invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed asserted that it was time to restore staffing to 2012 levels; she asked everyone to lobby Council Members and get neighbors to write letters; she suggested attending Finance Advisory Committee meetings to provide input; discussed the Creative Economy Report, the Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the Community Cultural Plan; she cited a *Los Angeles Times* article reporting that the City of Los Angeles missed out on large amounts of money in permit fees; she discussed California state law; development impact fees; monitoring of Culver City fees; clarification that the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance is a land use document; and City Council budget presentations.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the amount allocated to performing arts in the coming budget; the grant program; encumbered and unencumbered monies; carryover monies; plaques for historically designated buildings and sites; completing an updated survey; concern with earmarking a sizeable portion of the Cultural Trust Fund for two capital improvement projects; appropriation; implementation; common practices; the timeline for the Higuera Street bridge and bike ramp project; funding for the Washington/National TOD Gateway; clarification that the amount is discretionary, there is no public art allocation out of the Federal Highway Bridge money or MTA funding, grant funding sources; Commission consideration of how to spend the money; expending funds now so the project does not have to be a retrofit; historic preservation and the bungalows at The Culver Studios; the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for The Culver Studios; entities involved in the process; additional detail available in the City Council and Planning documents; the CAC's Historic Preservation subcommittee; Commission involvement; Conditions of Approval; additional mitigation measures; the Historic Resources Assessment prepared for The Culver Studios; releasing the money before the scope is defined; working with the developers, Community Development and the City Council; uniting the intersection; creating a gateway to the City; and the process.

Marla Koosed spoke about work programs; anticipating projects and earmarking funds; and the communication gap.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the CAC Public Art subcommittee; participation; concern with the money being frittered away; putting less City money forward and asking the developers to add additional funds; decreasing costs for the bridge and bike ramp; adding additional monies once the plans are more clear; length of the ramp; county grant money for the previous community project; unknowns with regard to the developers; being proactive; what happens before the money is spent; the normal process for spending money from the Cultural Trust Fund; review and vetting by subcommittees; involvement of a community advisory panel; the artist selection process; Requests for Proposals; consultant fees; the staffing situation; using the money from Lowe

Enterprises for the art project and the City money for staffing; a suggestion to relay the summary comments of the Commission to the City Manager and bring the item back to the Commission for additional review; concern that if the money is not set aside, it will not be there when needed; making a commitment; the Community Cultural Plan; practical experience; the Creative Economy Report; budget amendments; a suggestion to increase the budget for the Community Cultural Plan; public input; creating a Community Cultural Plan subcommittee; staff time; consultants and the staff component; the amount appropriated in 2012 to update the Cultural Plan; agreement to add \$28,000 to the carryover of \$12,000 for the Cultural Plan for 2016-2017 for a total of \$40,000; the large role the Performing Arts plays in the Cultural Plan; balancing the workload for staff; special one-off things that displace other things; using the Creative Economy Report to justify additional staff; timing; purview; revenue streams of other cities; making the case for return on investment when a city invests in their creative economy; and collaboration with Otis and other organizations.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, clarified that the City Council makes the final decision on the budget, and she summarized Commissioner comments including adding \$28,000 for the next fiscal year to the Community Cultural Plan line item so a total of \$40,000 will be available, additional consideration of the public art component for the Washington/National TOD and Higuera Street Bridge projects, and the overriding Commissioner comment that more staff is necessary.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding deadlines; money earmarked by the City Manager for the Creative Economy Report; Centennial related items; using local talent to decrease costs; graffiti artists; the generous number used for the bike ramp project; the process for choosing the artists; setting aside enough money so that budget amendments are not necessary; plaques; tabling the two public art items pending additional information; and information articulated in a previous proposal regarding staffing.

Vice Chair Dickter commented on the rate of development in certain parts of the City; the slowed pace of work due to

lack of staff; potential increases to the Performing Arts Grant Program; and the inability of the department to accomplish everything that is required at current staffing levels.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Commissioner attendance of City Council budget meetings; Commissioners that sit on the Centennial Arts and Culture subcommittee; the timeline for City Council action on the budget; and wording of the motion.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. RECOMMEND THAT THE PROPOSED BUDGET AS PRESENTED BE FORWARDED TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR CONSIDERATION WITH THE ADDITION OF \$28,000 FOR THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN FOR A TOTAL OF \$40,000 WITH ANTICIPATED CARRYOVERS; AND
2. BRING BACK FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION THE PUBLIC ART FOR THE WASHINGTON/NATIONAL TOD AND THE HIGUERA BRIDGE/BIKE RAMP PROJECTS FOR THE MAY 17, 2016 COMMISSION MEETING; AND
3. RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY URGENTLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY THE CURRENT DELAYS IN EXECUTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS WORK PLAN CAUSED BY UNDERSTAFFING, BUT LOOK AHEAD TO THE EVEN LARGER WORK PLAN TO BE EXECUTED IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFFING ACCORDINGLY.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, KLEIN, SMALL, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CHERRY

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Item A-2

Update on the Cultural Affairs News Column

Chair Klein noted that the Foundation was working more closely with the Commission on developing a process and

that Ashley Rodgers had provided a report on the item earlier in the meeting.

Vice Chair Dickter discussed content for the Cultural Affairs e-blast.

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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.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Commissioners

Chair Klein received clarification from staff that a proclamation would be coming from the City Council for Historic Preservation Month; she received consensus that the Commission receive a presentation from a member of the Historical Society for an upcoming Cultural Affairs Commission meeting and a presentation from Keith Jeffreys from the United States Veterans' Artists Alliance at the June meeting; she distributed cards from the Centennial Committee to help with their marketing; she reported on the last meeting of the Arts and Culture subcommittee; discussed coordinating Centennial events with existing programming; reported meeting with representatives from Make Music L.A.; and she announced that Fiesta Pallooza is looking for teen bands.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that Fiesta Pallooza was open to teen bands from Culver City High and other high schools in the area; she reported on Friday night events geared toward the teenagers in town; and she

noted that attendance numbers were very high for that night last year.

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Items From Staff

(Out of Sequence)

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that Turner North Productions had been working in the Veterans Memorial Building for several days on an episode of The Last Ship.

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Items from Commissioners

(Continued)

Commissioner Williams discussed an upcoming festival featuring Yo-Yo Ma at USC in Los Angeles.

Commissioner Small thanked everyone for their support while he served on the Commission noting that he would not be going far.

Chair Klein reported that the Historical Society would be meeting on April 20 at Veterans Memorial Building and she congratulated Commissioner Small on his election to the City Council.

Commissioner Williams encouraged everyone to attend the swearing in of new City Council Member Thomas Small on April 25.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:15 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on May 17, 2016.

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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