

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 29, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Klein called the meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M.

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

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Small

Chair Klein reported that brownies and scones had been provided by Arts for LA and Sofia Klatzker.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Janet Hoult.

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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 thanked the Commission for the honor of serving as Honorary Artist Laureate; she reported plans to research what an Artist Laureate is and how to configure the position; and she suggested forming an ad hoc subcommittee.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, suggested dissolving the existing ad hoc subcommittee; refining the scope; forming a new ad hoc subcommittee at the December

meeting; she expressed concern with serial meetings; and she encouraged Dr. Hoult to contact her with questions or concerns.

Dr. Hoult discussed her experience in fundraising through university and academic arenas; she indicated that she would investigate the fundraising component; she hoped the City Council would recognize the benefits of the position; suggested a poetry contest as part of the Centennial; and she discussed public relations.

Chair Klein discussed the workshop format of the meeting.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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Action Items

Item A-1

Workshop to Review Current Cultural Affairs Programs

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed the history of Cultural Affairs in the city; basic goals; the FY 2015-2016 budget; and the attempted 2013 update of the Cultural Plan.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Cultural Trust Fund; the Art in Public Places Program;

the funding formula structure for certain cultural affairs programs per the City's municipal code; updating the Cultural Plan in the future; priority for the Creative Economy Report; the intent for the Creative Economy Report to inform the Cultural Plan update; the dissolution of Redevelopment and redistribution of staff; following the pillars of the Cultural Plan; payments by developers to the Cultural Trust Fund: the Art in Public Places program; the name change from the Art Fund to the Cultural Trust Fund; creation of an internal threshold under which developers must pay the in-lieu fee; paying directly into the fund vs. investing in on-site permanent public art; policies of other cities; the regional public art administrators network and meetings; funding for Los Angeles County; Cultural Facility Enhancement funds; projects that are exempt from the program; architecture as fulfilling the percent for art requirement; and the Westfield Culver City public art installation.

Chair Klein introduced Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin, Chair of the Cultural Affairs Foundation, and Commissioners introduced themselves.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Ivy Substation; the balance of the Cultural Trust Fund; budget projections; fluctuations in development; creation of the Cultural Affairs Foundation; ways other cities fund arts programs; branding; marketing; tourism; diversifying funding sources; upcoming development projects; the staff component; the process for commissioning public art for private development; criteria for selecting an artist; the use of art consultants; projects that do not work out; interactive maps with permanent public art locations as included on the City's website; publicity and outreach; the public art activity book created by two Culver City middle school students for their Girl Scout Silver Award; the new City website; departmental responsibility for updating the content of the website; the Eric Owen Moss Umbrella building in the Hayden Tract; art maintenance and repair; costs; graffiti; collections management; the work of past summer interns in cataloging and inspecting permanent artworks; inspections completed to date by Gayle Smashey; capital improvements; and the budget.

Recess/Reconvene

The Cultural Affairs Commission took a brief recess from 8:28 P.M. to 8:37 P.M.

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Item A-1
(Continued)

Workshop to Review Current Cultural Affairs Programs

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed performing arts grants; available funds; the requirement of community access programs for the Ivy Substation and the Kirk Douglas Theatre; dates offered for Performing Arts Grant recipients; clarification that grants are open to Los Angeles County-based organizations;; support from Sony Pictures Entertainment; outreach to the community; and the Performance Evaluation Form and ZIP Code Tally.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding interns; a part-time contract position; increasing the lists being used; using Culver City grantees' contact information; social media; the Sony partnership; volunteer assistance; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission internship program; clarification that performances are not fully funded; the application; competition between different cities; language used on applications; the Cultural Data Project; standardized applications; diversity in performing arts; who applies for grants; the lack of available performing arts spaces in the City; application improvements; Los Angeles Culture Net Listserv; the August workshop; guidance offered by the City; the process; the timelines; electronic submission; application review; the peer review panel; the average number of applications; subcommittee review; Commission review; City Council review; stimulating the creation of new performing arts venues in the City; public/private partnerships; site specific work; the Helms Bakery Complex; the performing arts venue list; the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook; a suggestion to discuss venues in the City as an agenda item for a future meeting; and West Los Angeles College.

Chair Klein introduced Council Member Jim Clarke.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Centennial Celebration Committee, discussed the upcoming Centennial; opening ceremonies; the community parade; the downtown block party; tie-ins with existing events and organizations; CCUSD participation; the Centennial Celebration Committee's Arts and Cultural subcommittee; 100 Events for 100 Years; creating 10 days of performing arts in conjunction with the Kirk Douglas Theatre; Dine Culver City; possibly incorporating Centennial activities within the grant applications; concern with adding to the workload of staff; information sharing; coordination; City sponsored events; and marketing.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and Mr. Clarke regarding the possibility of adding additional criteria to the performing arts grants for the Centennial; respecting normal participants; plaques and awards; designation of a new historic site; public art; Culver City past, present and future; the theme of "Culver City at 100, A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"; subcommittee participation; upcoming new projects; in lieu fees; a suggestion to have a band shell in the park; programming; meeting the needs of grantees; providing an additional venue; endorsements; corporate sponsors; a suggestion to have a design contest for a permanent art installation; companies to approach; a previous plan for a band shell; the proposed performance space for Parcel B; noise issues with neighborhood parks and existing ongoing park activities; the Centennial budget; reimbursement of City Centennial funding; creating an ad hoc Centennial subcommittee of the Cultural Affairs Commission; specific tasks for other subcommittees; concern with Brown Act issues; the Playa Vista band shell; the timeline of events for the year; the importance of deadlines; joint Committee/Commission meetings; the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission; coordination with youth and sports groups; culvercity100.org; activity applications; Centennial Ambassador forms; parade forms; programming funds; National Arts and Humanities month; and staffing.

Additional discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners, Mr. Clarke and Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin regarding possible coordination between the Commission and the Cultural Affairs Foundation; the need for collaboration; subcommittees; the limited number of Foundation meetings; staffing; Foundations

that work without staff; the history of the creation of the Foundation; the way the Centennial Committee is set up; having a Memorandum of Understanding; fundraising goals of the Foundation; the dissolution of Redevelopment; Cultural Facility Enhancement; Veterans Memorial Auditorium; replacement lighting; advocacy for visual artists; grant opportunities; staff support; funding available through private foundations; the changing makeup of the Board; funding opportunities; changing projects of the Foundation; the Cultural Plan and Work Programs; providing impactful data; the Balboa Park Centennial Committee; the will of the Commission to engage more closely with the Foundation; the fundraising subcommittee for Veterans Memorial Auditorium; private foundations identified; Centennial sponsors; the auditorium as a community space; the possibility of committing sponsorship money to facilitate the use of the Auditorium as a venue for Centennial activities during Performing Arts Week in June 2017; focusing developer money toward Veterans Memorial Auditorium; legal issues; title sponsorship; guaranteed space and refurbishment; projection and sound equipment; a request for a budget and a timeline; and the Boeing Centennial.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed the evolution of historic preservation in the City; historic preservation as it pertains to land use; the Field Survey taken in 1987; the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee; the HPAC report created in 1990; the 1991 ordinance establishing the Historic Preservation Program; Landmark, Significant, and Recognized designations; buildings downgraded to Recognized due to concerns with restricting owner's rights; protections associated with the Landmark and Significant categories; clarification that the Recognized category is honorific only; changes to designated Recognized residential districts; commercial residential buildings; buildings on the National Register; the California Register of Historical Resources; the California Environmental Quality Act; clarification that discretionary development projects trigger CEQA review; the need to align Culver City's Historic Preservation Program with CEQA by updating the municipal code; buildings over 50 years old that have never been evaluated; the former Culver City Ice Arena; the definition of historical resource as defined by CEQA; the challenges and expenses associated with historic resource evaluations for

individual properties; the number of properties in the City with building that are over 50 years old; the City's on-call preservation firm; preservation of the character-defining features of the former Culver City Ice Arena; The Culver Studios CEQA Initial Study and comprehensive plan amendment; Planning Commission consideration; the need for an updated survey; costs to conduct a survey; the historical resources assessment created for The Culver Studios; the peer review process; buildings eligible for designation; CEQA requirements; the role of the Cultural Affairs Commission in the nomination and designation process; cultural affairs staff involvement in environmental review; subcommittee and staff work with stakeholders in the community on the code update; the State Office of Historic Preservation; encouragement to Commissioners to attend the November 18, 2015 Planning Commission meeting; the need to modernize The Culver Studios; balance; and additional information available from staff.

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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 Staff

None.

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Items from Commissioners

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:42 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on November 10, 2015.

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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