

REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 8, 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR ALICIA MILLIKAN

Call to Order
7:01 p.m.

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Susan Deen; Julie Lugo Cerra; Luther L. Henderson, III; and Ronnie Jayne. Chair Millikan's absence was excused due to illness.

Pledge of
Allegiance

Culver City Police Chief John Montanio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; Linda Simmons, Event Supervisor; Elaine Gerety-Warner, Management Analyst; and, Susan Evans, Community Development Director.

Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE SECRETARY'S REPORT REGARDING THE AGENDA POSTING FOR THIS MEETING.

Item #C-2.

Approval of Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2005 REGULAR MEETING.

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Item #A-1.
7:04 p.m.

Consideration of Architecture as Art Concept for
8601- 8637 Washington Boulevard.

Ms. Byers presented the staff report, which included an overview of the Architecture Review Panel, convened on February 25, 2005, and their comments regarding this project. She indicated that the material costs alone for the facade of SPF:architects' new building at 8601-8637 Washington Boulevard are expected to exceed \$150,000 and do not include labor or design fees. This sum surpasses the minimum one percent public art requirement for the project. Ms. Byers also noted in her report that the applicant was included in an exhibition at MOCA in 2001-02 which met one of the necessary qualifications as outlined in the City's Municipal Code under Section 15.06.160, Criteria for Approving Architecture as Art.

Commissioner Henderson expressed concern over the clear glass panels proposed to be incorporated into the building's façade and inquired if it will be shatterproof and meet all required safety standards for earthquakes, etc.

Zoltan Pali spoke on behalf of SPF:architects indicating that the glass meets all building code standards for safety as well as all structural and wind impact loads required by the Building and Safety Division. The applicant explained that the glass is tempered and that an anti-graffiti coating will be applied so it will always maintain a "like-new" appearance.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE SPF:ARCHITECT'S APPLICATION TO HAVE THE paneled facade on the west, south and east elevation of the building at 8601-8637 Washington Boulevard be considered as architecture as art.

Commissioner Deen noted that, as a member of the subcommittee who sat with the Architecture Review Panel and as a resident of the neighborhood, she was thrilled to second the motion.

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**Item #A-2.
7:15 p.m.**

Formation of 501(c)(3) for Cultural Affairs.

Ms. Evans provided a brief staff report as well as an update on a discussion between the CAC's Fundraising sub-committee and the Redevelopment Agency's Economic Development subcommittee, which advocated that the 501(c)(3)'s Board of Directors be appointed by the Cultural Affairs Commission. Ms. Evans recommended the item be returned to staff for some additional work and input from the Commission's Fundraising subcommittee, and for preparation of the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Once a comprehensive package has been developed, this item be brought back to the CAC for further review and then forwarded on to the City Council.

Commissioner Jayne remarked that she was delighted by the position taken by the two subcommittees which authorized the CAC to appoint the Foundation's Board of Directors, noting it illustrates confidence in the Cultural Affairs Commission to make these types of decisions and that this will help create a stronger tie between the Commission and the Foundation. She indicated that Mayor Rose initially voiced reservations about the addition of another 501(c)(3) to those already existing in Culver City, but he was ultimately convinced that a 501(c)(3) needs to be devoted specifically to Cultural Affairs to alleviate the risk of losing grants because of lack of a singular focus.

Commissioner Deen stated she is very pleased that the Board will be appointed by the CAC and requested clarification of whether the Commission will be making future appointments to fill vacancies or if that will be done by voting members of the Foundation or its Board of Directors.

Ms. Evans answered that she believes the intent is that the CAC will have the responsibility for all appointments to the Board which helps ensure a direct connection between the Board and the goals and programs of the Commission and, ultimately, the City.

Commissioner Henderson remarked that he is glad the item will be revisited, saying he does have some concerns. He indicated that he would like to have assurance that the Foundation will assist and supplement the CAC's implementation of the Community Cultural Plan and that it will be subordinate to the Commission. He recommended that the Articles of Incorporation of the Foundation for California Community Colleges be examined, saying they have the authority to remove directors and he would like to ensure that the CAC is granted that power.

He explained that he ultimately envisions the 501(c)(3) of the Cultural Affairs Commission as something similar to the National Endowment for the Arts or the California Arts Council with the ability to pursue not only grants but public and private enterprise funding.

Ms. Evans indicated that staff is also carefully examining the structure of the Public Corporation for the Arts in Long Beach to determine what components from that model might be applicable to Culver City.

Vice-Chair Cerra requested an examination of the Bylaws of the Parks and Service Foundation and any other City-sponsored 501(c)(3) to determine what the City has done historically.

Commissioner Jayne commented that it might appear as though an incredible amount of time is being taken for the development of this 501(c)(3). She explained that there is a vast amount of information to be sorted through in the early stages and noted that the time spent investigating and deliberating the matter has provided her with a much better understanding of the myriad concerns as well as those things that need to be included and those that need to be avoided.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE STAFF REPORT AND COMMENTS.

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Public Comments.

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE CORRESPONDENCE.

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7:34 p.m.

Items From Staff.

Ms. Byers indicated that at the request of Chair Millikan and Vice-Chair Cerra she would take this opportunity to provide a few updates on some of the ongoing activities of the Cultural Affairs Division. She explained that, for example, a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes for many months before staff brings forward any action items with regard to public art. She outlined some of the current projects as follows: Echo Horizon School has commissioned artist David Shelton to create a public art concept for the site; Symantec has identified an artist for their project, which should come to the CAC for consideration sometime this summer; the building at 9599 Jefferson Boulevard will be turned into a veterinary hospital and the tenants have commissioned artist Brad Howe to create a sculpture; the life-size clay models for the Harry Culver sculpture should be ready for review sometime at the end of June; and, the Architecture Review Panel met in February to consider designs for SPF:architects and the property at 3505 Hayden Avenue.

Ms. Byers advised that Public Works has hired a contractor to resurface the Heritage Fountain using a substance called PebbleTec which, hopefully, will eliminate some of the cracking and splaying of tiles that has occurred in the fountain over the last ten years. She noted that once this work is completed the lighting will be upgraded and replaced.

Ms. Byers concluded her comments by informing the Commission that the installation of the final zoetrope for Town Plaza had to be rescheduled due to the heavy rains experienced over the past few months.

Ms. Simmons indicated that RFPs for a resident theater company for the Ivy Substation have been sent out to approximately 75 interested theater companies, saying the deadline for submission is March 22nd. She stated that four artists have been lined up for the Music in the Chamber Series program, and that Gary Mandell, the producer of the Summer Sunset Music Festival, has nearly completed the selection of performers for that event.

Ms. Simmons announced that a summer intern is being provided through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to assist with special events and publicity.

Ms. Gerety advised that she has been hard at work gathering information to aid in the design and implementation of a cultural events calendar, and she provided a brief outline of the upcoming speakers for the Art of ... Speaker Series.

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7: 42 p.m.

Commissioners' Comments.

Commissioner Henderson commented that he recently became aware that Culver City has been very actively pursuing grants and matching funds, noting that the City received approximately \$24,369,000 in matching funds for an outlay of \$5,350,000, resulting in an impressive rate of return on approved levels of funding of approximately five dollars to every one put forward.

Commissioner Deen remarked that she recently had the great pleasure of attending a performance of "The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip" produced by Center Theatre Group at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, saying the show is suitable for children over six and adults will also be enthralled. She expressed gratitude to CTG for providing excellent outreach to the schools, noting they filled the theater with elementary and middle school children for their dress rehearsal.

Commissioner Jayne requested a reminder from staff on how visual and performance artists can have their names placed on an e-mail reminder list for RFPs.

Ms. Byers indicated that interested parties can e-mail their information to either her, Ms. Simmons or Ms. Gerety-Warner, saying two master databases are maintained for RFPs – one for visual artists, which she manages – and another which is kept collectively by staff for performing artists.

Commissioner Jayne remarked that, in keeping with the spirit of the many wonderful performances offered in Culver City, the Art of ... Speaker Series has consistently been delightful, saying the presentations are all quite different and equally fascinating. She indicated that she is also very excited about the Summer Sunset Music Festival, saying it is going to be a great season with an extraordinary variety of music.

Vice-Chair Cerra advised that the Historic Preservation subcommittee is working very diligently in preparation for Historic Preservation Month, which is celebrated nationally in May. She requested that everyone mark their calendars for April 11th when the City Council will declare May Historic Preservation Month in Culver City.

She indicated other organizations are joining in the celebration, noting the Culver City Historical Society is planning events, including tours and exhibits, and Sony Pictures Entertainment will be commemorating the 90th anniversary of the historic Colonnade.

She indicated that a discrepancy was recently discovered with regard to some of the plaques being ordered for historic structures in Culver City, noting that 24 structures which were originally

submitted as "Significant" were subsequently all reduced to "Recognized" status before the matter went to Council in 1991. She stated it is unclear how this occurred since there is a standard format for making historic designations and speculated on the possibility that the owners did not want their structures designated within that category because of the perceived red tape that might be encountered if there was ever a desire to make changes to the facades.

Vice-Chair Cerra advised that the Los Angeles Conservancy has an excellent publication out this month with some useful information under the title *The Top Ten Myths About Historic Preservation*, which provides some facts about what does and does not happen when a structure receives a historic designation and might alleviate some of these misconceptions.

Vice-Chair Cerra concluded by indicating that the 30th California Preservation Conference will be held in Riverside between May 12th and 15th.

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7:56 p.m.

Adjournment.

With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:56 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Millikan, Chair

Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter

City of Culver City, California
Certification of Documents by the City Clerk

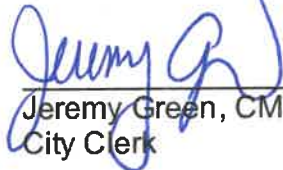
I, Jeremy Green, being the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Culver City, California hereby depose and declare

The 6 pages of the Cultural Affairs Commission Approved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2005 attached hereto are true and correct copies of documents in the possession of the City of Culver City.

I have affixed the Seal of the City of Culver City, California to indicate they are such true and correct copies.

Certified on this 7th day of March, 2022.

BY:



Jeremy Green, CMC
City Clerk

