

REGULAR MEETING: MAY 8, 2007
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
Patio Room, 3rd Floor City Hall

Presiding: Chair Susan Deen

Call to Order
7:01 p.m.

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

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Roll Call

Present: Clement Hanami, Luther Henderson, III, Ronnie Jayne, Gayle Smashey, and Chair Deen.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Obrow.

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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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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Item #C-1

Agenda Posting

Moved by Vice Chair Henderson, 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

April 10, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Jayne, seconded by Commissioner Hanami and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 10, 2007.

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Item #A-1

**Update on *All Strings Considered*, ARTWALK Culver City,
and Culver City Music Festival 2007**

Special Events Producer & Performing Arts Coordinator Susan Obrow reported on the success of the first children's cultural event on the west side of Culver City, *All Strings Considered*, on Saturday, April 28 with children comprising more than half of the 83 audience members. She felt fortunate that the Help Group allowed them to use the space for free and that healthy refreshments were donated by The Rumor Mill. She noted that both groups had expressed a willingness to donate to children's events again in the future. She summarized results of the after-event survey which indicated that nearly 2/3 of the participants were from Culver City and the balance was from surrounding areas. A restaurant list was created focusing on the west side of Culver City.

Ms. Obrow reported on preparations for ARTWALK Culver City, noting an increase from 30 galleries participating last year to 42 this year. She summarized promotional activities for the event and announced that Culver City would present the event with LACMA Muse. Sponsors include Sony Pictures Entertainment and KCRW, the Exceptional Children's Foundation is making 79 parking spaces available, and staff has compiled an eating and drinking list from Helms Avenue to La Cienega Boulevard. At four spots along Washington Boulevard there will be live jazz ensembles playing between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to highlight areas that could be overlooked. LACMA Muse is placing their own ads and creating their own complimentary brochure to promote their after ARTWALK party at 8 p.m. to honor the galleries as part of their LACMA Muse membership program at HD Buttercup. Their brochure will be sent out to their 3,000 members and will be available on their website and to their mailing list.

Ms. Obrow announced the line up for the Culver City Music Festival on Thursday evenings at City Hall from July 12 to August 30.

Responding to an inquiry from Commissioner Smashey, Ms. Obrow indicated that ARTWALK Culver City was in the May issue of the LACMA newsletter.

Commissioner Jayne was pleased that four year olds had

enjoyed *All Strings Considered* and Ms. Obrow reported that a majority of survey respondents indicated that they brought their kids to the event because they saw it as an educational opportunity.

Responding to an inquiry from Vice Chair Henderson, Ms. Obrow reported that there would be an all day ARTWALK bus pass available for \$1 or less.

Chair Deen explained that since much of the bus funding is Federal grant money, the City has to charge something so they do not severely impact the grant requirements.

Responding to an inquiry from Vice Chair Henderson about interviews, Ms. Obrow reiterated publicity efforts, noting that LACMA had a separate publicity press list geared toward social and party coverage whereas the Culver City list is geared toward stories and interviews. She added that the week of the ARTWALK event, Culver City would send out a tip sheet to radio and news stations to cover the event and Commissioners would be provided with brochures to distribute.

Responding to Chair Deen, Ms. Obrow reported on new restaurants that would be open in time for the ARTWALK event and she noted that the brochure would go out to 7,500 school children in the district and any private schools that would allow them to distribute, as well as to restaurants and galleries. She added that there was e-flier for galleries to send to their mailing lists.

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Item #A-2
7:28 p.m.

Discuss Alternate Date for June Regular Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting

Chair Deen reported that Council Chambers would not be available on the regular meeting date and the Commission discussed alternate dates for the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Jayne, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously passed to change the regularly scheduled Cultural Affairs meeting date for June to Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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Public Comment

Loni Anderson announced Farragut Elementary School's annual Artworks 2007 on Saturday, May 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Helms Complex. She indicated that admission to the adults-only event to view the children's artwork would be \$10 and includes entertainment and refreshments.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator Christine Byers reported a memo in the packets from the City Manager as a follow up to the facilitator meetings attended in February and that either Jerry Fulwood or Martin Cole would attend the June Commission meeting for a follow-up presentation.

Commissioner Smashey objected that the Commission had not been notified of an item affecting the Commission on the City Council agenda and she asked that they be specifically noticed in the future when there are agenda items relevant to the Cultural Affairs Commission. She questioned when staff received the memos.

Ms. Byers responded that they received notice just after the Commission packets went for the May meeting. She said she would follow-up with Mr. Cole about whether the Council Item had indeed been agendized and if so, why the Commissioners and staff did not receive a confirmation about the meeting.

Commissioner Smashey expressed concern about proper communication between the Council and Commission.

Vice Chair Henderson asked for an update on the one-hour rule whereby Commissioners can request up to an hour of staff time without permission of the Commission.

Ms. Obrow reported that further clarification on this topic was forthcoming.

Vice Chair Henderson felt Commissioners should be able to

ask staff questions without getting permission from the entire Commission and that the policy had to come from the City Manager or the City Council. He agreed with Commissioner Smashey that the Commission should have had information prior to the last City Council meeting and he expressed concern about the lack of communication in the City.

Chair Deen indicated that she had not received notice about the meeting about sustainable design but rather had found out about that from a banner on Overland Avenue.

Vice Chair Henderson noted that most citizens are working and cannot come in and provide input on sustainable design during the day, noting that he would have liked to have participated.

Ms. Byers indicated that she would check to see if the item was covered on the City Council agenda and if it was she would check to see why the Commission was not noticed. She added that City Manager Fulwood and Assistant City Manager Cole would be contacting Commissions to address issues in June.

Vice Chair Henderson asked staff to inform the City Manager and Assistant City Manager of the date change for the June meeting.

Commissioner Smashey asked that the Commission be notified in advance if the City Manager is going to attend the June meeting.

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Items from Staff

Ms. Byers reported that the deadline for Commission/Committee applications had been extended to May 15 and that the City Council would be considering appointments on May 29th. She reported attending the California Preservation Foundation's Annual Preservation Conference last week where she focused on sessions about preserving movie studios and she announced upcoming City Council items pertaining to Cultural Affairs.

Ms. Obrow reported on past and future performances by Culver City Arts grants recipients noting that West Los Angeles College planned to remodel its black box exactly when the Three Chairs Theatre Company planned its performances in the space. Ms. Obrow suggested to the theatre company that it investigate the black box space at the Robert Frost Auditorium. Dates had to be changed and are now in June. She suggested highlighting the Teen Center as an interesting place for performances on the website.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Hanami reported receiving a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of Los Angeles and he announced that his show opened May 6.

Commissioner Smashey reported attending the inauguration of astronauts into the Hall of Fame and she noted that the schedule for Fiesta La Ballona was coming together with a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love.

Commissioner Smashey related that back in November she had mentioned a documentary on the Youth Orchestra of Venezuela and her goal is to get a conductor who came out of that program to come to Culver City.

Commissioner Jayne reported that she would be in Italy for the month of May.

Vice Chair Henderson reported seeing "Sleeping Beauty Wakes" this past weekend and sharing a Cultural City brochure with Phil Jackson of the Lakers who was eating at Kaizuka restaurant. He announced the upcoming car show put on by the Exchange Club and the Fire Department Open House and he encouraged Commissioners to attend the June 15 City Council meeting when the Community Development Department budget will be presented.

Chair Deen also reported seeing "Sleeping Beauty Wakes" and she was thrilled by the many things going on in the City.

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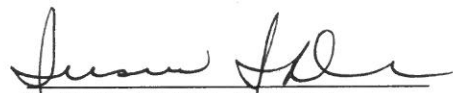
8:05 p.m.

Adjournment

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Moved by Vice Chair Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. to the Adjourned Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 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