

REGULAR MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2007
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Presiding: Susan Deen

Call to Order
7:01 p.m.

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

-0-

Roll Call

Present: Susan Deen; Luther Henderson, III; Clement Hanami*
and Gayle Smashey.

Absent: Commissioner Jayne

* Commissioner Hanami arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Christine Byers indicated that Commissioner Jayne had
requested an excused absence.

-0-

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cathy Zermeno.

-0-

Staff Present

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

-0-

7:02 p.m.

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

-0-

Item #C-1
7:03 p.m.

Agenda Posting

Moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by
Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to receive
and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting
for this meeting (absent Commissioner Jayne).

-0-

Item #C-2
7:04 p.m.

October 9, 2006 and November 13, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Smashey, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of October 9, 2006 and November 13, 2006 as written.

-0-

Item #A-1
7:06 p.m.

Consideration of Second Revision to 1997 Approved Concept for Public Art Project at Hillside Memorial Park

Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator Byers provided a summary of the material of record noting that Hillside Memorial Park had more than met their 1% public art requirement for the Acacia Gardens mausoleum project and they and staff wanted to see the public art component deemed complete.

* Commissioner Hanami arrived.

Commissioner Smashey supported the staff recommendation, noting that it was unfortunate that Kent Twitchell was unable to complete the mural but she hoped that something appropriate would happen in the last panel.

Ms. Byers reported that Commissioner Jayne had sent written comments asserting that Hillside acted in good faith, spent well above the required 1% and expended much time and energy on the project. She felt that the project should be deemed complete at two walls with Hillside allowed to complete the third wall as they see fit.

Commissioner Hanami indicated that he was satisfied that Hillside had tried to fulfill the requirement and he wished there was something the CAC could do to help.

Commissioner Henderson expressed disappointment that Kent Twitchell was unable to fulfill his obligations to Hillside. He observed that it was an extraordinary situation that the project would be deemed complete at this stage and he emphasized that the action was an exception and should not be precedent setting. He reported that the process had been going on for 4-

5 years and the City acknowledged that the mortuary had done everything they could but there were circumstances beyond their control.

Julie Lugo Cerra indicated that the contract was signed in 1997 and the project was to be completed in 1998. The first panel was completed then and they have tried hard to get Mr. Twitchell to finish but he has been distracted and distressed by other murals completed by him that have been vandalized. She felt it unfair to Hillside Memorial Park to be kept waiting.

Moved by Commissioner Smashey and seconded by Commissioner Henderson that the Cultural Affairs Commission agree that Kent Twitchell's completed mural depicting a marriage ceremony at the Acacia Gardens mausoleum completes Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary's public art requirement for that construction project. A voice vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Commissioner Jayne.

-0-

**Item #A-2
Town Hall Meeting
7:18 p.m.**

Staff will open the annual Cultural Affairs Town Hall Meeting by presenting a brief overview of the development of and updates to the adopted Community Cultural Plan, a summary of accomplishments for 2006 and a preview of the 2007 work program

Performing Arts Coordinator & Special Events Producer Susan Obrow and Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator Christine Byers presented the staff report.

Ms. Byers reported meeting with Kyungmi Shin regarding the *Here Now There Then* public art project and with the aid of images she provided the CAC with examples of some of the banners. She indicated that background information on the project would be included on the City website.

-0-

Item #A-3

Members of the public are invited to come forward and address the Commission with comments and ideas regarding existing or future Cultural Affairs programs.

Written comment cards submitted:

Sam Cerra: The Historical Society marked Civil War Camp Latham as Historic Site #11 this year and is entertaining bids to make the space designated by the City Council a good, secure space to preserve City history. It is very encouraging to see the progress on the goals set by our community.

Julie Lugo Cerra, City Historian: It gives me great pleasure to see the work done on the Cultural Plan yield results. The interest in historic preservation is transitioning into a long awaited Culver City Historical Society archival and display space in the Veterans Memorial Building. Culver City is becoming a destination for the arts as well. Keep nurturing. Try to increase communication so we can achieve more – together!

Dean Edward, President, Culver City Public Theatre, thanked the Council for awarding them grant money which they greatly appreciated and that would help fund exciting projects for the year. He announced the first ever black tie optional fundraiser at the Ivy Substation on Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

Lynn Baril, Culver City Historical Society, indicated that the lease had been signed for the museum and that they had received their first donation of light tables from The Getty.

Cathy Zermeno, President of the Culver City Historical Society, announced that the first General Meeting in the new space would be on January 27, 2007. She added that the meeting was free and open to the public.

Greg Reiner, The Actors' Gang, thanked the Commission and the City for having the vision to carry out the Cultural programs in which they were pleased to participate. He summarized the past accomplishments of The Actors' Gang and announced future events.

-0-

Public Comment

Mim Shapiro thanked the Commission for their good work.

-0-

Receipt of Correspondence

None.

-0-

Items from Staff

Christine Byers thanked the Commissioners for all their hard work, input and guidance. She also thanked Julie Lugo Cerra for her assistance with Kyungmi Shin's art project for Washington Boulevard.

-0-

Items from Commissioners

Responding to Commissioner Smashey regarding the California Cultural and Historical Endowment grant application for the AMVETS project, Susan Obrow reported that while Cultural Affairs had done very well on the grant, they did not move into the final phase. She indicated that she would be attending a workshop the following week on the application process.

Commissioner Smashey questioned whether the subcommittee would be brought into the process to update language for the Public Art Ordinance. Christine Byers replied that the CAC Public Art subcommittee would be involved and hearing from her shortly. She added that *The Art of ...* speakers series would be added into the list of accomplishments for 2006 before the document was submitted to the City Council.

Commissioner Smashey suggested that Commissioner Hanami do an open studio tour as part of ARTWALK Culver City and Commissioner Hanami clarified that while he lives in Culver City his studio is located outside of the City.

Commissioner Hanami reported sitting on one of the community review panels for the Metro Expo Line and working

with the artists who will be providing art to the station.

Commissioner Henderson suggested trying to get as much done as possible on short-term and long-term goals of the Community Cultural Plan and he expressed concern about finding a performance space on the west side of Culver City. He asked about the status of events listings in the community calendar, the printed calendar and website as well and the status of the grant for the proposed performance space for the AMVETS building. He also asked about the status of the 501(c)(3) application.

Ms. Obrow indicated that one of the adopted goals in the Community Cultural Plan is facilitating the development of art in diverse cultural facilities. She reported that staff was on the lookout for performing arts spaces to the west which is an ongoing goal that will be realized.

Chair Deen explained that the Cultural Affairs Foundation did not qualify as a 501(c)(3) yet as they are awaiting approval from the IRS. The corporation has been formed within the State of California so there is a legal entity and she suggested that they can convene a meeting with the Board of Directors and start planning. She added that until the 501(c)(3) is received, any contributions accepted could cause problems for anyone wanting to declare the contribution as a charitable.

Performing Arts Coordinator & Special Events Producer Susan Obrow reported encouraging performing arts grant recipients to use the community calendar on the website to avoid creating multiple, conflicting calendars.

Christine Byers indicated that 12 programs outlined for this year meet goals of the Community Cultural Plan, most of the outcomes listed in the plan have been touched upon and many have been realized in full. She pointed out that everything they do relates to a goal and unforeseen opportunities like the expansion of Town Plaza also help meet the goals in the plan. She indicated that the City-wide historic structure survey would be updated in 2007 for the first time in 20 years.

Responding to Commissioner Henderson, Ms. Byers noted the media attention the art galleries in Culver City have recently

received.

The Commission expressed gratitude to staff and the community for participating in the process and encouraged anyone with ideas to email the Commission.

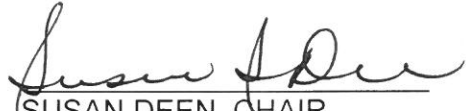
-0-

8:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Smashey, seconded by Commissioner Hanami and unanimously carried (absent Commissioner Jayne), to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall.

-0-


(SUSAN DEEN, CHAIR

KRISTI CALLAN
Minutes Reporter