

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 16, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:06 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Tania Fleischer
Vice Chair Brenda Williams
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali
Commissioner Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal questioned whether the Commission was working with the City on the budget; discussed the 2017 Creative Economy Report; and she noted the importance of interweaving the arts in the budget to prove that Culver City is a creative economy with FIFA and the Olympics coming.

Commissioners noted that there was already a Creative Economy Subcommittee and encouraged Ms. Neal to stay for the meeting as the Action Item was to form a subcommittee for the Olympics.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – (1) Creation of an Ad Hoc 2028 Olympics Subcommittee; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to the Ad Hoc 2028 Olympics Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, noted the subcommittee was added for the current fiscal year and that all subcommittees are traditionally reviewed in July with assignments made for the following fiscal year at that time.

Commissioner O'Carroll discussed the importance of the subcommittee; the amount of planning that goes into the Olympics process; scope of the subcommittee; community engagement; collaboration and partnerships; accessibility and inclusion; legacy planning; long-term sustainability of cultural initiatives; leaving a lasting cultural impact on the city; integrating cultural initiatives in the overall program; liaising with the City Council to ensure coordination and cooperation in implementing cultural initiatives; the important opportunity for the city; and promoting cultural activities.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal discussed Sister Cities; fostering activities; creating an international global marketplace; purchasing and bartering; possible use of park space; extra training space; additional venues; and collaboration with the Parks Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the creation of an Olympics subcommittee; activating park space; having cultural events in existing venues; promoting the arts within the Olympics; the arts and creative people in the city; public art; liaising with the Artist Laureate Program; integrating an Olympics component into the Performing Arts Grant Program; the importance of having Olympics programming originate from within; coordination with other organizations that want to partner; making up for the lack of athletic participation with cultural arts; energy and excitement brought by the Olympics; taking enough time for preparation; parallel activities; international houses created for the Olympics; the need to provide input to the City Council; the opportunity to build foundational collaborations; cultural tourism; the Community Cultural Plan; willingness to serve; and the public art component.

MOVED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: CREATE AN AD HOC 2028 OLYMPICS SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT COMMISSIONERS MESGHALI AND O'CARROLL THERETO.

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Items from Members/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed upcoming grant performances.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that the City Council had received the budget presentations with a vote on the budget scheduled for June 12; discussed the proposed enhancement for the Performing Arts Grant Program; anticipated revenue; Council discussion of adding a third full-time

position for Cultural Affairs; and Council consensus to add a one-year contract position.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that the contract position would be dedicated to public art and historic preservation, and would free up the Cultural Affairs Manager to do more advanced planning and handle complex development projects.

Commissioner O'Carroll discussed the plaque unveiling in honor of Louise Coffey-Webb in a parklet at Culver Boulevard and Huron Avenue.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin discussed Earth Day events; attending the event for Louise Coffey-Webb; she hoped to attend Performing Arts grant funded performances in May; and she reported attending a Whole Earth event in Davis, California noting that she would like to see something similar in Culver City.

Chair Fleischer reported on performances she attended in April; encouraged everyone to go see anything performed by Theater by the Blind; discussed a recent Creative Economy Subcommittee meeting; the new Special Events Manager staff member; the work of the Artist Laureate; and she described attending an art garden and studio tour in Encinitas, noting that she would like to see something similar in Culver City.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed their approval of a scholarship focused on stage craft in Louise Coffey-Webb's name; reported City Council approval of the feasibility study for Bill Botts and Veterans Memorial parks; discussed collaboration with PRCS; encouragement to participate in the community meeting held for both parks; the importance of the arts in renovating Veterans Memorial Complex and other spaces in the city; she noted that the Foundation

would be involved; and she wanted to see the Commission involved early in the process.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin noted that other departments and Commissions had already been involved in the process and that she had asked the City Council to involve the Cultural Affairs Commission; she emphasized the importance of being part of the conversation; and she proposed integration of an outdoor performance space during the renovations.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding staff agreement to alert Commissioners to those meetings; encouragement to all Commissioners to sign up for notices on the City website; and the previous connection between PRCS and Cultural Affairs.

Commissioner O'Carroll expressed appreciation for the Culver City Arts Foundation scholarship in honor of Louise Coffey-Webb.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:35 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

TANIA FLEISCHER

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.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date