

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION,
CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA

May 14, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marla Koosed
Commissioner Michelle Bernardin
Commissioner Regina Klein
Commissioner John B. Williams

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Fred Iglesias and Mr. Stu Freeman.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, announced their next concert on June 8 at Veterans Auditorium, he thanked the City for the grant, and he played different scales to illustrate differences in musical styles.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, read an email sent to the Cultural Affairs Commission by Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk.

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Presentation

Presentation by Julie Lugo Cerra: "Historic Preservation Month: SEE! SAVE! CELEBRATE! What Does This Mean to Culver City?"

Chair Smashey introduced the item.

Julie Lugo Cerra, Culver City Historical Society, provided a presentation with images on the history of the City, the establishment and accomplishments of the Culver City Historical Society, including placement of historical markers at various sites throughout the City.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, expressed appreciation for the presentation and provided background on the orchestra and their connection to the City.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes - April 9, 2013

Commissioner Klein provided clarification regarding changes that she had requested to the minutes of March 12, 2013 regarding the background of Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin.

Chair Smashey wanted it to be included in the minutes that she had brought in photographic examples of shutters to support her comments regarding shutters in Action Item A-1.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSSED AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2013 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of a Public Art Concept in Conjunction with a Development Project at 3644 Eastham Drive, 8600 Hayden

Place, and 8550 Higuera Street (Hackman Capital)

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Jim Suhr, Hackman Capital Partners, provided an area map; discussed the project; creative office conversions; the extensive artist review process; the artist, Christopher Puzio; screening elements on two of the buildings, transparency and materials; integrating architecture, landscape design, and public art to create a cohesive campus environment; and he provided examples of materials.

Marco Marraccini, Abramson Teiger Architects, discussed the three different art pieces proposed by the developer; creating more intimate components within the façade of the buildings; creating a campus environment; continuity between the buildings; the landscape plan; and he presented previous works designed by Mr. Puzio.

Jim Suhr, Hackman Capital Partners, discussed materials; colors used; responsiveness to external architecture and adjoining buildings; maintenance; longevity; the total amount allocated for the project per the Art in Public Places Program; and the budget for the artwork.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners, staff and Mr. Suhr regarding clarification that using a white color would help avoid fading of the powder coated finish; costs associated with installation; the larger construction budget; the relationship of the 8600 Hayden art piece with the freestanding component with another nearby public artwork; color choices; the freestanding piece; the façades of the Hayden and Higuera buildings; placement of the buildings within the campus; the approval process; the fabrication process; subcommittee review; landscaping around the freestanding artwork; absorbing installation and other costs in the construction process; the recently adopted Art in Public Places Program Ordinance; the parking structure; the proposed magenta color; including the engineering costs in the construction budget; anchoring the freestanding piece; review by Public Works; concern that surfaces be smooth; anti-graffiti coating; appreciation for the proposal; the partnership with the City on the parking structure; engineering, safety and maintenance; clarification on the design of the freestanding piece; the interactive nature of the piece; safety; lighting; and the

three dimensional depth of the artwork.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding integrating the landscaping around the free-standing artwork and amending the motion.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSD AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE CONCEPT FOR AN ARTWORK ENTITLED, *MAGNETIC FIELDS*, BY ARTIST CHRISTOPHER PUZIO AS FULFILLING CULVER CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM REQUIREMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT 3644 EASTHAM DRIVE, 8600 HAYDEN PLACE, AND 8550 HIGUERA STREET WITH THE COLOR CHOICE FOR THE FREESTANDING COMPONENT AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE TO BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE AS THE CONCEPT EVOLVES.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, reviewed recent Performing Arts Grant recipient performances and announced upcoming performances.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that she had copies of the revised Art in Public Places Program Ordinance for interested Commissioners; she announced that an office trailer had been placed in Parcel B as part of an installation by the Center for Land Use Interpretation that will be open from May 17th through June 16th in conjunction with Pacific Standard Time Presents. The exhibition is entitled, *On*

Site Office Trailers, Invisible Architecture of the Urban Environment; and she thanked everyone for their efforts in putting together the meeting.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, thanked Chair Smashey for volunteering every Wednesday at the office at Veterans Memorial for the cause of Cultural Affairs.

Vice Chair Koosed added that the exhibit on Parcel B would be open Friday through Sunday from noon to 5:00 P.M. from May 17th through June 16th.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioner Klein reported that a survey would be available at Fiesta La Ballona August 23-25, 2013 with more information available at cultural.affairs@culvercity.org, and she indicated that May 18th would be LA Stage Day, put together by the LA Stage Alliance with additional information available at lastagealliance.com.

Commissioner Williams thanked staff and fellow Commissioners for their assistance.

Commissioner Bernardin thanked her fellow Commissioners for supporting the presentation in conjunction with Historic Preservation Month; discussed the importance of historic preservation; reported on the Proclamation presented at the May 13th City Council meeting for Historic Preservation Month; announced that the ARC would be open on May 18th; and she thanked Julie Lugo Cerra for the presentation that evening.

Vice Chair Koosed expressed appreciation to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager for their efforts on behalf of Cultural Affairs in the City; acknowledged their fiscal responsibility to the City; noted the need to speak out on what happened to Cultural Affairs in April 2012; discussed the elimination of 14 staff positions at that time; clarified that three of the vacated positions made up the entire Cultural Affairs division; she discussed the reassignment of the Cultural Affairs employees; the additional duties given to the employees; the Art in Public Places Program; the de-funding and dismantling of Cultural

Affairs without any discussion with the Commission, the Foundation Board or the public; the City's 2013-2014 budget; establishment of the Cultural Affairs division and Commission in 2001 by the City Council; the Community Cultural Plan; carrying on the legacy; the financial nature of the decision to dissolve Cultural Affairs; the lack of public input or discussion of impacts to the division; an observation that it was the only division cut by 70%; current staffing levels; essential parts of job descriptions and work programs; the inability to apply for grants, interns or to oversee Foundation fundraising efforts; cuts to subcommittee meetings for the Commission and the Foundation; concern with burning out staff and losing them; institutional knowledge; professional relationships; staff expertise; concern that Cultural Affairs will become severely, permanently disabled if no action is taken; concern that Culver City will lose its place and brand as a Cultural City; area cities that had Cultural Affairs as part of their General Fund rather than as part of redevelopment; she noted that there were a few weeks remaining before the budget is to be adopted and asked everyone to rally with her to express support for reinstating Ms. Byers' position to full-time in Community Development for the 2013-2014 fiscal year while a long-term solution is figured out to fund and reimagine Cultural Affairs post-redevelopment; she discussed the Otis Report on the Creative Economy; practices of other cities; endowments; and she proposed a motion to restore Ms. Byers' position with her comments added to the public record to be shared with the City Council during budget hearings.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding agendaizing a discussion of the matter at the next meeting; timing of the issue; the budget hearings in June; clarification that staff learned of the email from the City Manager the day before; providing proper time for a response; possible opportunities; changes offered by the City Manager and Assistant City Manager; effectively executing Art in Public Places and Historic Preservation; and clarification that a vote can not be taken as the item is not on the agenda.

Chair Smashey reported on the March Cultural Affairs Foundation meeting; the upcoming Foundation meeting scheduled for May 20th; and she announced the Los Angeles Bulgarian Festival at Veterans Memorial Complex on May 19th.

Commissioner Klein expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Koosed for her efforts to support Cultural Affairs and questioned what could be done to move forward.

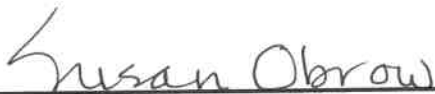
Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding the Brown Act; acting as individuals; the role of the Assistant City Manager; the June Commission meeting; the opportunity for further discussion; the impact on Cultural Affairs for the next year; concern with wasting an opportunity for discussion; appropriate places to discuss the issue within the next few weeks; staff agreement to make the City Manager and Assistant City Manager aware with a summary of the comments made at the meeting; and a suggestion to call a special workshop or meeting before the June Commission meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:14 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on June 11, 2013 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED May 15, 2013



GAYLE SMASHEY

CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
City of 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, City of Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.



Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK

22 JAN 2014

Date