

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 20, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin
Vice Chair Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Len Dickter
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager

Nancy Lawlor, Performing Arts Grant Associate

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Pledge of Allegiance

Nancy Lawlor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult reported that there would be an activities tent at Fiesta La Ballona where children could learn how to make musical instruments from cereal boxes and chop sticks; she reported that the Artist Laureate Program was underway and materials would be available soon; and she announced The

Small Press Book Festival at The Wende Museum on September 21.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin noted that Dr. Janet Hoult is the Honorary Artist Laureate for Poetry for Culver City.

Emer Kinsella, Emersion Music, invited everyone to attend a project entitled Intrinsic Strings at the Baldwin Hills Overlook on August 24 and she described the event.

Dave Nagel reported that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department had recommended he address the Cultural Affairs Commission regarding his proposal for the first ever public photo and image park; he felt photography and movie making could be embraced by recreation; discussed the number of people who own cameras and those who use Instagram; dedicating a location where photo and motion capture is available to everyone; making park equipment that can double as film equipment; providing resources to aspiring photographers and videographers as well as emerging professionals; partnership opportunities; financing; he reported meeting with lighting companies that are interested in working on the project; discussed partnerships with schools; combining the film industry, architecture and art; he indicated that he had provided information to staff; and he asked that consideration of the item be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Dickter suggested that Mr. Nagel speak with the Culver Arts Foundation and indicated that staff would follow up with him.

Commissioner Fleischer suggested that Mr. Nagel reach out to Heather Moses, the Arts Coordinator for the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD), and the Culver City Education Foundation.

Alicia Ide reported that she had contracted with the City to launch the Artist Laurate Program; she discussed progress made; outreach; and she encouraged Commissioners to contact the artists they know.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that Ms. Ide had been set up with a City email address and phone number.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin welcomed Ms. Ide to the team.

Marla Koosed discussed The Culver Steps project; planning in 2015 prior to the developer being chosen for Parcel B; agreement that money would be spent for the common areas to be used for the City's summer concert series and other performing arts activities; incorporating technical needs into the development process; changes made during the transfer of property; use of the steps as a viewing area; and the statement made by former Mayor Jeff Cooper that the Cultural Affairs Commission would hopefully be able to do a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the City's summer concert series when Parcel B is developed.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 18, 2019 and July 16, 2019

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, noted that minor corrections had been made to the minutes.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF JUNE 18, 2019 AND JULY 16, 2019.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, PALI, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: DICKTER

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – 1) Consideration of a Concept or Concepts for Temporary Art at City Hall; and, 2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed discussed the compressed time schedule; public participation in the process; the difficulty of staffing Cultural Affairs; availability of the concept proposals to the public; outreach; and public relations.

Nate Mohler provided background on himself and a presentation on the project; discussed the history of Culver City; strengthening the sense of community; the courtyard fountain at City Hall; establishing a center point and meeting place; creating a digital, yet physical fountain; incorporating open source data into the fountain so each droplet is a tweet or something happening in the Culver City digital community; activity fluctuations; sense of play; motion tracking; lighting; visibility; reflecting people; interactivity of the fountain; fabrication; the budget; LED size; weather-proofing; vandal-proofing; and materials.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Mohler, staff and Commissioners regarding support for the strong concept and visuals; the Culver City specific nature of the information included in the digital portion of the project; the data feed; social media; open source data; clarification that there is no actual water, rather the water is a digital representation; repurposing a fountain that is currently not working; digital mesh; the self-contained nature of the

project; length of the installation; differences in visibility between daylight and nighttime hours; height; diameter; use of a QR Code so that people can connect to a website with background information on the installation; the interactive nature of the piece; coding; maintenance; timing; scheduling; the team; encouragement to involve the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts and the architecture and digital design programs at the high school; equity and inclusion; support for repurposing the fountain; privacy issues; special events; posts made in the vicinity; parameters and ways to isolate data; use of specific hashtags; the program to identify specific hashtags and add extra flow; having people who pass by experience the change in imagery as the projection of the water moves around them; security; installation of a camera; proving to people that they are influencing the sculpture; documenting the build; ensuring a secure network; other interactive art pieces; and support for a piece that creates community pride.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A CONCEPT BY NATE MOHLER FOR TEMPORARY ART AT CITY HALL.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the budget, and appreciation for the piece that will increase community and pride in the City.

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Item A-2

CAC – Discussion Pertaining to Public Relations and Outreach for Cultural Affairs

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding increasing awareness of the Commission; whether a Marketing Subcommittee should be established; graphic design; content; establishing something that stands apart from the City; responsibilities of the Commission; having a link to

the Cultural Affairs page on the Culver Arts website; building the reputation of the City as a creative tourist destination; integrating businesses with the arts; featuring businesses on the website; stories about local creative business; gathering information to be presented in a cohesive way to gain the support needed; the task of the subcommittee; ensuring that there is not a disconnect between the City and Cultural Affairs; support for the formation of a subcommittee; determining what the subcommittee wants to communicate; the community calendar; the Commission; whether a consultant is needed; liaising with regional and state entities; brainstorming; being intentional on what is being created; low level tasks; including a communications component for every proposal coming forward; different types of committees and subcommittees; opportunities to partner with Culver Arts; managing expectations; enthusiasm; and limitations.

MOVED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CREATE AN AD HOC COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT COMMISSIONERS DICKTER AND WILLIAMS TO SERVE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, distributed information and announced upcoming Performing Arts Grant

performances; announced that the 2020 grant applications had been released with a deadline of September 12, 2019; invited everyone to Fiesta La Ballona from August 23-25 and indicated that additional information was available at fiestalaballona.org or through the Fiesta app; and she announced that she would be retiring at the end of the year.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that she would email the Commission an updated roster with subcommittee assignments and she announced that the Los Angeles Conservancy would hold a special all day series of tours in Culver City on October 19.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Fleischer reported on Arts to Work and the presentation made to the City Council on the Digital Media Arts Apprenticeship Program; she thanked Serena Wright-Black for her contacts; indicated that the first cohort would be starting in September; reported discussions with the Chamber of Commerce to bridge the gap between arts and business; hoped to start the first CCUSD program next summer; and she reported attending the Los Angeles Arts Education Collective.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending the presentation of *Rosalynde & the Falcon* at the Culver City Public Theatre; discussed the Culver City Arts Foundation meeting on August 13 and an upcoming meeting with the subcommittee and staff on budget expectations and the work plan going forward; reported being selected again to be an Ovation voter for LA Stage Alliance; announced that she and Jack Stehlin would be honored by Stage Raw with a career achievement award on September 9; and she expressed eagerness for the new Performing Arts Grant Program and Artist Laureate Program.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:55 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on September 17, 2019 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN
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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date