

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 15, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. via Webex.

Present: Chair Tania Fleischer
Vice Chair Len Dickter
Commissioner Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Brenda Williams*

*Commissioner Williams joined the meeting at 7:09 P.M.

Absent: Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate

oOo

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

oOo

Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Mark Lipman provided background on himself; discussed the Culver City Small Press Book Festival in 2019; the upcoming International Poetry Festival in Italy; and his hopes for collaborating to bring a similar poetry event to Culver City in the future.

Chair Fleischer suggested that Mr. Lipman work with the Culver City Arts Foundation.

Rebecca Rona Tuttle, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC) Chair, indicated being the liaison between the EHRAC and the Commission; discussed the origin of Juneteenth; and she announced a virtual Juneteenth Celebration on June 19 hosted by the EHRAC.

Commissioner Williams joined the meeting.

Marla Koosed congratulated Commissioner Williams on her reappointment; noted that it was the last meeting for Vice Chair Dickter; discussed the update of the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance; the work of Vice Chair Dickter and Commissioner Pali on the Creative Economy; expressed hope that efforts would continue; and she expressed appreciation for Vice Chair Dickter's leadership.

Vice Chair Dickter thanked Ms. Koosed for her kind comments.

o0o

Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC - Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2021

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 18, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

o0o

Order of the Agenda

No changes were made to the order of the agenda.

o0o

Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - 1) Consideration of Updates on the City's Efforts to Support and Promote the Creative Economy, Including Engagement with Stakeholders; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced the item.

Elizabeth Garcia, Economic Development Project Manager, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed the work of the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) and work to engage Creative Economy stakeholders.

Vice Chair Dickter discussed the culmination of many years of effort by the Commission on the Creative Economy; involvement of the City's Economic Development team; work done by the ERTF; coordination with the Chamber of Commerce; integrating the Creative Economy into the work of the City for maximum benefit; the virtual event held with a variety of stakeholders; optimism for the future and uncertainty; creating networks; sharing resources; building connections and roots in the city; providing a voice for everyone and a level playing field; creation of virtual and live networking events; addressing the needs of creative stakeholders; the Stakeholder Report; moving beyond Cultural Affairs; the General Plan Update; maintaining strong arts and culture representation; advocacy by the Commission; and appreciation for the leadership role taken by the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to Vice Chair Dickter for his work on the Creative Economy; the importance of investing in arts and culture in the city; the contribution of the Creative Economy to the growth of the city; the transformation of the Commission into an important body due to bringing money and recognition to the city; the changing City culture; the American Rescue Plan; and block grants.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed expressed support for comments made by Vice Chair Dickter; thanked Commissioner Pali for his efforts; reported being appointed to the ERTF; and discussed continuing efforts to make the Creative Economy permanent in the City.

o0o

Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that no public comment had been received.

o0o

Receipt of Correspondence

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

o0o

Items from Staff

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided a presentation on Public Art in the city; discussed *The Lion's Fountain* retrofit project; revamping *Culver Current*; a proposed postcard campaign with an augmented reality (AR) component; and she indicated that she was signed up for the Juneteenth program on June 19.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, announced upcoming Performing Arts Grant performances; discussed past Performing Arts Grant recipient performances; and renewed support of the Performing Arts Grant Program by Sony Pictures Entertainment for 2022.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that Culver Arts had already submitted their grant toward the Artist Laureate Program for 2022; she discussed consideration of forgiveness of the City's loan to Culver Arts scheduled for City Council consideration on June 28; announced that the

City Council had reappointed Brenda Williams and appointed Leora O'Carroll to the Commission; and she discussed some of Vice Chair Dickter's accomplishments, expressing appreciation for his service on the Commission.

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Dickter for his tireless efforts, noting that he had left his mark on the Commission and left it in a better place than it was when he joined.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, read a written comment from Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin congratulating Vice Chair Dickter for his achievements on the Commission.

o0o

Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Pali thanked Vice Chair Dickter for his efforts and wished him well moving forward.

Commissioner Williams thanked the City Council for her reappointment; expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Dickter for his support and guidance; thanked Commissioners for their support of her reappointment; discussed the pandemic; the lifting of restrictions; she encouraged people to get vaccinated; wished everyone a happy Juneteenth; and noted the importance of seizing the moment to provide an anti-racist and equitable, diverse environment that is good for all.

Chair Fleischer discussed celebrating Juneteenth and Pride Month; encouraged everyone to attend the many arts and cultural events happening around the city and county; congratulated Commissioner Williams on her reappointment; she welcomed new Commissioner Leora O'Carroll; reported attending the Americans for the Arts convention; discussed resisting inertia; carving out a new normal that centers around equity and justice; national infrastructure spending; arts as part of American infrastructure; the upcoming meeting of the Justice Arts Coalition; and she expressed appreciation for the many accomplishments of Vice Chair Dickter.

Vice Chair Dickter thanked everyone for the recognition; congratulated Commissioner Williams on her reappointment and

new Commissioner Leora O'Carroll on her appointment; discussed reasons for serving; the Culver City Arts Foundation; public service; his work with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture; work with the City of El Segundo; collaboration with other Cultural Affairs Commissioners in other cities; the small number of incorporated cities with a similar Commission; appreciation to staff, Commissioners and former Commissioners for their mentorship, as well as the new leadership at the Chamber of Commerce, and many others in the city who have supported the Commission and the Creative Economy; continuing work to be done; the need for the City to commit to sustained arts and culture funding; the need to invest in programming to reap the benefits; the real estate success story for the city; concern with prioritizing private and corporate interests over smaller enterprises that are the backbone of the creative economy; short-term corporate tenants; the importance of access, inclusion and diversity; the goal of an open and transparent government working for everyone; ensuring equal access and consideration; creating opportunity for all, not some; ensuring that the City and Council Members are not beholden to other interests; the role of the Commission to help the City Council; Sony Pictures Entertainment as the exception, not the rule; and the importance of understanding that corporate responsibility is not the solution to all problems.

oOo

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:17 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

oOo

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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date