

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 16, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Damon Willick

Absent: Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Willick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that time to recognize the service of Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin to the Cultural Affairs Commission would be allowed as part of Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda.

Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Hope Parrish welcomed new Commissioner Willick and thanked former Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin for her service; discussed extending the showing of Katy Krantz's art installation at City Hall; the collaborative effort; support of the Culver City Historical Society; and announced a presentation at the Historical Society on the one hundred year history of the Culver Hotel on July 23 by graduating Culver City High School interns.

Jim Clarke, on behalf of the Culver City Arts Foundation, commended outgoing Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin for her service; discussed some of her accomplishments; expressed appreciation for her collaborative efforts; anticipated that the Commission would select an equally enthusiastic Commissioner to serve as liaison to the Foundation; hoped that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin would serve as a Board Member of the Foundation; and he announced upcoming plans to honor her at the Annual Holiday Party on December 19, 2024.

Alicia Ide echoed comments made by the previous speaker; indicated that, as a staff member, she had worked with Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin closely; expressed appreciation for her time and effort getting new programs started; and she hoped to work with Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin again in the future as part of the Foundation.

Christine Byers provided background on herself; expressed appreciation to Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin for her efforts while serving on the Commission; discussed her work on the Artist Laureate Program; and she wished Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

Susan Obrow discussed the service of Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin to Culver City for eight years; her background and contributions; and watershed moments.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, read comments submitted by Commissioner Mesghali and from retired Assistant City Manager, Serena Wright-Black, and she expressed her own appreciation to Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin.

Commissioner Fleischer expressed appreciation for her time working with Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin; discussed her accomplishments, leadership, and integrity; her work on the Artist Laureate Program and the Performing Arts Grant

Program; her advocacy for creation of the CBC (Commission, Board, and Committee) Handbook; her efforts to promote the work of the Commission with the public; her fierce advocacy at City Council meetings; turning the tide toward City Council support for the arts and the work of the Commission; work to elevate the arts and expand the Commission's scope of work; dedication; progress in tangible and impactful ways; the legacy of transformation and growth for the Commission and Culver City; she asserted that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin had made Culver City a better place; and she expressed gratitude for being able to serve together.

Vice Chair o'carroll thanked Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin for her commitment and for bringing forward issues affecting the arts at the state level; discussed speaking at City Council meetings; working together at the Culver City Arts Foundation; her work on the Performing Arts Grant Program and the Artist Laureate Program; she indicated that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin's humor would be missed; wished her the best in future endeavors; and thanked her for her service.

Chair Williams discussed Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin's contributions; commitment; dedication; humor; energy; and expressed hope that her outstanding qualities would continue into her next endeavor.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement and kind words; welcomed new Commissioner Willick; discussed the importance of the work done by the Commission; willingness of staff to help; gratitude for being able to serve; the transformative power of art and culture in Culver City; enriching resident lives; fostering a sense of belonging; growth from relationships built along the way; numerous milestones and challenges faced during her eight year tenure; she hoped that moving forward, Culver City would keep Cultural Affairs fully staffed and funded; noted the importance of robust and sustainable support for the arts; discussed embedding artists in all departments; the need for additional performing arts venues and more artistic placemaking initiatives; advocacy for art installations; providing welcoming and visually appealing gateways; officially recognizing the Cultural Corridor; reminding everyone that art and culture must always be central to the work of Culver City; bringing back a City Council multi-

Commission working meeting; finding places to intersect; ensuring ongoing support for funding; cementing Culver City's reputation for artistic excellence and cultural vitality; updating the Culver City Cultural Plan; historic documentation of subcommittee work; continued advocacy of Commissioners as subject matter experts; she thanked her family for their support, and City staff for their dedication, hard work, support, and professionalism; and she expressed appreciation to the artists who have served the community, the Cultural City Arts Foundation, the Artist Laureates, and Commissioners past and present.

Commissioners and staff posed for photographs.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that the newsletter from the Culver City Historical Society had been distributed to Commissioners.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Special Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of May 23, 2024

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 23, 2024.

THE MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI
ABSTAIN: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLICK

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

- 1) Acknowledgement of Newly Appointed Commission Member; and**
- 2) Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2024 - 2025**

Commissioner Willick discussed the farewell to Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin; his responsibility to continue the good work; and his background noting that he hoped it would bring something to the community and to the Commission.

Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Willick.

Chair Williams nominated herself; discussed her accomplishments while serving and plans for the future; and her collaboration with staff and her fellow Commissioners.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT CHAIR WILLIAMS TO SERVE AS CHAIR FROM JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLICK
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLICK THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR FROM JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLICK
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-2

1) Dissolution and Creation of Subcommittees to Reflect the FY 2024 - 2025 Cultural Affairs Work Plan; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the importance of retaining the Culver City Arts Foundation Subcommittee; defining the goal of ad hoc subcommittees; the committed goal to support the arts in Culver City; quarterly meetings with the Board or Board representatives to review what is going on; a suggestion to appoint one representative to attend Foundation meetings; staff attendance of the meetings; and support for continuing the subcommittee.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed the value of the subcommittee; the fact that it is not a requirement to attend the meetings; communication; benefits of having two Commissioners attend the meetings; Brown Act Rules; acting as city advocates; the 2028 Olympics; the idea to build a performing arts center; the ability to get items placed on the Foundation agenda; and he indicated that anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Foundation achievements in the past year; support for the Commission; new appointments; interest in serving; those who want to continue their assignments; Members who want to continue to serve for continuity; and clarification that there is no limit on the number of ad hoc subcommittees that one can serve on.

Hope Parrish, Culver City Historical Society, indicated that she wanted to be part of the Historic Preservation Ordinance review process.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that ad hoc subcommittees can only be comprised of Commissioners, but members of the public are allowed to participate in discussions.

