REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 16, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Dickter called meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Chair Len Dickter
Vice Chair Rich Cherry
Commissioner Zoltan Pali
Commissioner John B. Williams
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marla Koosed.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult distributed a copy of the poetry contest press release; she displayed bookmarks containing information on the contest and the poster to be displayed at Fiesta La Ballona; she encouraged everyone to participate; and she announced that the Library had agreed to provide the venue for the second poetry reading scheduled for April 2017.

Chair Dickter felt that the Poetry Reading would be a wonderful component of the Centennial.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2016.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes to the order of the agenda were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Adjustment(s) to Assignment(s) of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, noted that the Commission had reviewed the subcommittees at the July meeting but after the meeting, Commissioner Williams felt that he should offer an opportunity for someone else to serve on the Public Art subcommittee.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding present positions held and balancing the workload.

MOVED BY CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT VICE CHAIR CHERRY SERVE ON THE PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that she would be sending Vice Chair Cherry and Commissioner Pali an agenda for the next meeting scheduled for August 29.

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Item A-2

Discussion Regarding Potential Reorganization of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation

Chair Dickter provided background on the item noting the request from Mayor Clarke at the May Cultural Affairs Commission meeting that the Commission consider reorganizing or privatizing the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record and discussed unrestricted money available in the Foundation bank account.

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Jim Clarke, Mayor, discussed his purpose in amending the Cultural Affairs Foundation bylaws; the potential for increased success with fundraising; creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); clarification that the Foundation would be a fundraising arm carrying out an annual workplan developed by the Commission and adopted by the City Council; he discussed quarterly activity reports and creation of an annual budget; the current organization of the Foundation; term limits; the Executive Committee; he presented a draft work in progress for amending the bylaws; and he requested that several members of the Commission be appointed to work with him to amend the bylaws.

Marla Koosed expressed concern with the memorandum furnished by Mayor Clarke on July 9, 2016; the lack of open discussion about the item becoming an agenda item; she noted that the current meeting was the first time the item was on an agenda; she discussed minutes for the May 2015 Cultural Affairs Commission meeting; the request that the item be placed on a future City Council agenda prior to the item being presented on a Cultural Affairs Commission or Foundation agenda or any public conversation taking place; she expressed concern with a statement by the Mayor that "they are all on board with re-constituting the Foundation"; she discussed the Brown Act; the importance of transparency; the wisdom of the many rather than the few; democracy in action; context and focus of the Cultural Affairs Foundation; the demise of Redevelopment; history of the Foundation and summary of actions; fundraisers; things accomplished within the Brown Act structure; she provided recommendations from the ad hoc subcommittee to explore the original purpose of the Cultural Affairs Foundation; and she urged the Commission to fully vet the topic before moving forward.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding meeting frequency; the idea of the Foundation as a pass through organization to fund arts organizations in the City; expanding involvement of residents; increasing the profile of the Foundation; whether there is an urgency to making changes; policies of other cities; clarifying the purpose of the body and ensuring that it can move forward effectively; the importance of the Brown Act; the ability of subcommittees to meet more often; adding special meetings to the minimum of two meetings per year; City staff workload; clarification that a private foundation could have open meetings and the MOU could require public participation; creating economies of scale; the process; and revising the bylaws rather than disbanding or reconstituting.

Mayor Clarke noted that the bylaws could be revised; he discussed involvement of the City Council; the articles of incorporation; fees; the fundraising arm of the Commission; the annual work plan approved by the City Council; formulation of a strategy by the Foundation to achieve the work plan; the Brown Act and transparency; encouragement of public participation; the quarterly report filed by the Foundation to the Commission; the public record; and allowing for collaboration.

Ashley Rodgers, Cultural Affairs Foundation Board, expressed concern with a lack of City support to keep the organization together and the requirement to produce quarterly reports.

Chair Dickter clarified that the amended bylaws for consideration indicated that there would be an MOU with the

City; the Foundation would not be a public entity subject to the Brown Act; and that private staff would be used rather than City staff.

Celeste Anlauf, Cultural Affairs Foundation Board, indicated that she is a professional fundraiser; expressed frustration with not being able to speak to her fellow Board Members freely; discussed constraints that staff has; the need for flexibility; expanding the Board; and expediency.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the articles of incorporation; state and Federal determinations; the Brown Act; competition with other organizations; more frequent meetings; the proposed MOU with the City; referring the item to a subcommittee to make recommendations; options for moving forward; time to consider the matter; communication with key stakeholders; clarification that Mayor Clarke made the changes proposed to the Commission; whether the Foundation is on board with the reconstitution of the Foundation; positions to be filled; holding a special meeting; whether the Commission is going to be making a recommendation; timing; concern with losing the support of City staff; and transitional funding from the City to support the partial staff person.

Mayor Clarke suggested that requirements could be included in the MOU; he discussed the experience of the Centennial Celebration Committee; the need for outside consultants; and the process to make the changes.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the importance of including public input in the process; appreciation for the work of Foundation Board Members; the important role of City staff; The Education Foundation and the Centennial Committee; and what percentage of raised funds could be directed toward staffing.

Ron Smoire addressed the Commission and suggested that a subcommittee conducting research would help the Commission make a decision; he discussed the importance of having the information available to the Foundation so they can make a decision about the Commission recommendation; and making an educated decision.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, noted that due to the narrow way that the agenda item was written, it would not be appropriate to create a new subcommittee at the current meeting.

Serena Wright-Black, Administrative Services Director, suggested that Commissioners individually review the revised bylaws created by Mayor Clarke and discuss that at the next meeting.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding individual review of the restated bylaws with Mayor Clarke's amendments; review of other MOUs; the inability to form a subcommittee; the fundraising subcommittee of the Foundation; public engagement; and encouragement to staff to provide information to Commissioners as early as possible.

MOVED BY CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: REVISIT THE ITEM AT THE SEPTEMBER CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING.

Mayor Clarke suggested that the Commission ask for three nodding heads to consider placing an item on the agenda pertaining to potentially forming a subcommittee at the next meeting.

The Cultural Affairs Commission received consensus to agendize consideration of forming a subcommittee at the next Commission meeting.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Dickter invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported on the Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program; The Actors' Gang returned to Media Park for the 10^{th} Edition of the annual Shakespeare series with *Romeo & Juliet: The Pokemon Go Edition*, every Saturday and Sunday in August; the 2017 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Application was released on August 1; she thanked Commissioners Williams and Wisnosky Stehlin for their review of the plan and noted the Centennial component; she added that the application process is completely online with grantees strongly encouraged to propose projects incorporating Centennial themes; she discussed available logos; she announced a free grant workshop on August 17; and she indicated that the deadline for grant submissions is September 15.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that two former Commissioners would be receiving commendations for their service at the August 22, 2016 City Council meeting and she encouraged Commissioners to attend; she received Commission consensus to move the meeting date for December due to its proximity to Christmas from December 20 to December 13; and she indicated that she would be out of the office until August 29 but that Serena Wright-Black would forward MOU examples for Commission review.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams received clarification regarding the next meeting of the Artist Laureate subcommittee and he discussed his schedule.

Chair Dickter discussed his experience serving on a working group for the Los Angeles Arts Commission's Diversity and Inclusion Initiative about audiences and participants.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:32 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on September 20, 2016.

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B Christine Byers
SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 09.20.2016

LEN DICKTER
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
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

04 NOV 2016
Date