

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, February 21, 2008
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Ron Cooper, Laura Deem, Karen Frankel, Paula Kirkeby, David Negrin, Einar Sunde
Commissioners absent: Terry Acebo-Davis
Staff present: Linda Craighead, Staff Liaison, Co-Director Arts & Sciences
Staff absent: Darlene Katsanes, Program Asst., Arts & Sciences

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Cooper.
ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of January 17, 2008 approved as corrected.
FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

NEW BUSINESS

ART IN CIVIC CENTER

Vice Chair Kirkeby would like to see the Civic Center Lobby Space used more often. The Commission could display the artwork that has been deaccessioned. Displaying permanent collection artwork and public art commissioned artists is a good use of the space. Craighead clarified that any artists interested in exhibiting at the Civic Center Lobby should contact Division of Arts and Sciences staff about exhibit space availability in the Civic Center Lobby. Staff maintains a yearly calendar, and artwork is reviewed by staff to meet the guidelines of appropriateness for hanging in a public space. Frankel recommended that the calendar be placed on the City website.

Kirkeby reported that she is working with Gerald Brett and they will want to submit proposals for Lytton Plaza from artists. Craighead said there is a proposed public-private partnership for Lytton Plaza. Council may be looking at this in 2008-2009. Digital DNA will remain on the plaza but may be repositioned. Kirkeby is suggesting a public art competition for an artwork on Lytton Plaza.

FILAREE

Craighead reported that there is a need to identify a new site for *Filaree* by Gene Flores. *Filaree* is currently installed in front of the Municipal Service Center on Bayshore Road. Craighead provided the Commission with recent images of the sculpture showing how the view of the sculpture is being blocked by solar panels. Cooper is unhappy with the current base for the sculpture and wants to see a new base created for the sculpture when it is moved. Chair Cooper and Commissioner Negrin formed a sub-committee to find a new site for the sculpture.

ACTION

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION

Commission discussed the unveiling of *The Color of Palo Alto*. The bus wrap will be installed on the façade of the Civic Center beginning March 20. Frankel thinks it is a good idea to let the public know the schedule. Craighead wants *The Color of Palo Alto* installation to stay in place for at least six months. The Commission would like to celebrate the installation the last weekend of March, and will clarify the timing of the celebration with Yates. The Commission discussed having a paint chip created of *The Color of Palo Alto* which the public could use as a bookmark. Craighead asked the Commission to approve funds

for the paint chip.

Motion: Move to allocate \$500.00 for publicity.

MOVED: Cooper: Seconded: Frankel: Ayes: Unanimous.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT

Craighead reported that she needs a more specific scope of work from Beasley. A meeting is set for February 28 with the artist, Craighead and public works staff to discuss details of the project. Sub-committee plans to attend this meeting. Frankel intends to invite Ronna Devincenzi from CAADA. Frankel said that Ronna would like a letter regarding this project that she can take to CAADA. Kirkeby announced that she has been approached by a few people about commemorative benches.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE UNDERPASS

Craighead reported on a bid she has received for anti-graffiti coating the proposed underpass mural. Bid is \$13K using the same product and process used to coat the utility art boxes. A lower bid is expected from the vendor using less expensive materials. Chair Cooper has approached the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) about the possibility of having each school child in Palo Alto create a tile for this underpass. Tiles have more resilience than a painted surface. Cooper has approached artist Nina Koepke and she is preparing a proposal. Commission Sunde stated that he called New York regarding their Art in Transit project where they use tiles. Sunde said that New York has a large art budget, and that they have hired four project managers to manage their project. Commission questioned whether to create a RFP to attract more artists to guide this project. Negrin suggested that there be rubber bumper strips installed in the underpass in the area where bicycles have scratched the walls the most.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Craighead reported that the contract with Ceevah Sobel is in place. Commission queried when construction starts. Staff will advise.

NON-ACTION

MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT COLLECTION

Craighead thanked the subcommittee for their revisions to the CAP report. Chair Cooper stated that he would like to see the condition of the sculpture collection assessed. Craighead reported that the sculpture collection was last reviewed in 1998. The Commission needs to decide their direction for the next steps for both two-dimension and three-dimension collections.

ARTIST SERIES

Chair Cooper reported that the sub-committee has met. Cooper has approached Marta Thoma and Greg Brown. He has also spoken with Fletcher Benton. Dates for speakers need to be confirmed by the subcommittee. Craighead recommends that a postcard be developed with artist series dates and speakers and be mailed out no shorter than one month before the first conversation in the series. The pairing of Mayor Klein and Nathan Oliveira is being discussed.

Next steps: Sub-committee will try to set schedule before next meeting.

ARTWORK FROM KEN EDWARDS

Craighead reported that the artwork from Ken Edwards has been received. Mayor Klein has recently selected artwork for his office, and this artwork will be installed there.

Next steps: Chair Cooper will write a thank you letter to Ken Edwards and Sharon Chine for their contribution to the collection.

ONGOING

OUTREACH

The City website needs to update the roster for the Public Art Commission. Craighead reminded the

Commission about attending the mandatory ethics training.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craighead announced that artist Greg Brown is working with children to create a mural at Rinconada Pool.

Chair Cooper announced that VIA magazine has an article on public art this month.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.