

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, April 17, 2008
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Cooper.
ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of March 20, 2008 approved as corrected.
FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION

ARTIST SERIES –Chair Cooper reported that the Artist Series subcommittee met to discuss the program. Six speakers have been identified and there is a possibility for a seventh speaker. Four speakers will participate together on a panel, two speakers together, and one speaker will appear solo. Cooper requested that each speaker be given an honorarium for participating in the Artist Series. The Commission discussed how much to allocate each speaker. The group of four speakers will receive \$100.00 each, two speakers will receive \$200.00 each, and the solo speaker will receive \$400.00.

Motion: Move to allocate \$1200.00 to use for honorariums for the Artist Series.

MOVED: Cooper; Seconded: Kirkeby; Ayes: Unanimous.

Craighead reminded the Commission that a postcard advertising the Artist Series should be mailed out.

Motion: To allocate \$500.00 for a postcard for the artist series.

MOVED: Frankel; Seconded: Deem; Ayes: Unanimous.

Next step: Cooper will send staff the list of speakers and the schedule.

CIVIC CENTER LOBBY EXHIBITS – Commissioner Sunde requested that the Commission select dates for the Commission to showcase artwork and other exhibits in the Civic Center Lobby. Vice Chair Kirkeby stated the goal of the Commission is having artwork displayed in the lobby a few times a year. Commissioners Acebo-Davis and Sunde volunteered to select artwork from the City's collection to be on display in June.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES – Commissioner Frankel stated that The Color of Palo Alto façade on the Civic Center façade has been received as a positive event. Frankel asked for additional funds to create a commemorative plaque for The Color of Palo Alto. Additional funds are requested for the giveaway, a postcard for the August 5 event, new project signage, and a HP projector and screen to mount on the garage. The projector and screen would allow the citizens of Palo Alto to view their homes at a more comfortable viewing distance. Images would be projected on the garage running in a continuous loop. The Commission stated that the projector and screen would be purchased for Yates to use but the owner of the equipment would remain the City of Palo Alto, Public Art Commission.

Motion: Move to allocate \$2000 to buy plaque, signage and giveaways for The Color of Palo Alto.

MOVED: Frankel; Seconded: Kirkeby; Ayes: Unanimous.

**Motion: Move to allocate \$1100 for the HP video projector and screen to be used by Yates for The Color of Palo Alto. The two items will remain the property of the City of Palo Alto.
MOVED: Acebo-Davis; Seconded: Deem: Ayes: Unanimous.**

MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT COLLECTION – Craighead reported on the matrix staff created from the Commission’s prioritized recommendations from the CAP Report. Commissioner Acebo-Davis’s recommendations are pending. Commissioner Acebo-Davis’s said she will go along with the consensus of the Commission’s recommendations. Craighead announced that creating policies and procedures and upgrading the storage for the collection are the highest recommendations. The task is to identify a staff person to make a proposal to care for the collection and create a policy and procedure manual regarding the care for the collection. Chair Cooper questioned where we would get this staff person. Craighead stated this staff person could be a member of the Art Center installation crew, or possibly could be a great program for an intern. The Commission wants there to be a clean room for the art collection that would not be negatively impacted by the storage needs of other programs at the Art Center. The Commission queried whether there are any plans to include storage space for the Art in Public Spaces two-dimensional collection in the current renovation phase at the Art Center. Craighead said that focus is on a children’s wing and exhibition gallery and does not include any changes for the City’s art collection. She said that the collection will be moved to an off-site storage during the construction phase. Craighead said that the Commission can plan and fundraise for a dedicated space for the collection in future.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT –Chair Cooper requested an additional \$5,000.00 for Beasley’s contract. These funds will cover transportation, installation, and engineering of the artwork. Craighead stated that she has created a City Manager’s Report and that the project contract is scheduled to go to Council on May 12. Craighead will follow-up with the bicyclist group to assure them that the bicycle path at the sculpture site will not be obstructed.

**Motion: Move to allocate an additional \$5,000.00 to project, for a total project budget of \$190,000.
MOVED: Cooper: Seconded: Acebo-Davis: Ayes: Unanimous.**

NON-ACTION

CALIFORNIA AVENUE UNDERPASS - The Commission continued the discussion on options to create a new mural at this site. They discussed the recent news article stating that CAADA wants the current mural to be repaired. Kirkeby stated that if CAADA and others want to keep current mural they can come up with funds to repair it and contact artist. Deem stated that repairing air brushing is not an easy fix. Chair Cooper suggested that a Commissioner visit CAADA with this suggestion.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION – Craighead reported that the engineered drawings from artist Ceevah Sobel have been approved by Public Works, and that the artist has received her first project payment.

FILAREE – The Commission discussed Greg Bett’s recommendation that the artwork be sited in the new annex to Greer Park. Sculpture will need a new base. Staff estimated that the cost to create new base and install sculpture is approximately \$3,000.00.

Next step: Commissioners asked to visit Greer Park to look at site.

RECRUITMENT – Craighead reported that three applications were received for the five vacant Commission terms. She stated that Council Liaison Barton has offered to speak with Council about interviewing these applicants. Craighead asked the outgoing Commissioners if any of them would be willing to temporarily extend their terms until replacement Commissions could be identified. Chair Cooper and Commissioner Negrin agreed to extend their terms temporarily.

MITCHELL PARK SCULPTURE PROJECT – Craighead reported that the engineered drawings from artist Michael Szabo have been approved by Public Works, and that the artist has received his first project payment.

ONGOING

OUTREACH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper announced that Fletcher Benton is receiving an international award next month at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. On Saturday, April 26 the Commission is invited to attend a party at Benton's studio from 4 – 7 pm.

Chair Cooper announced that it has been a privilege to serve on the Commission alongside his fellow commissioners these past years.

Outgoing Commissioners Cooper, Deem, Frankel, Kirkeby and Negrin said their goodbyes.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.