

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, October 16, 2008
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Terry Acebo-Davis, Erik Bakke, Nancy Coleman Elise Griffin
DeMarzo, Ally Richter, Einar Sunde, Larisa Usich
Staff present: Linda Craighead, Staff Liaison, Director Arts & Sciences
Darlene Katsanes, Program Asst., Arts & Sciences

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Sunde.
ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of September 18, 2008 approved as corrected.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

ACTION

BILL BLISS MEMORIAL ART PROJECT

Commissioner Richter reported on her meeting with staff regarding the process of this project. She shared the process that this project will undergo. If the Commission votes to proceed with this memorial project the next step would be for the sub-committee to meet with Patrycja Bossak, Bay Trails, Bonnie Bliss, and staff to discuss the parameters and details of the RFP. When a RFP is developed it will come back to the full Commission for review. Richter asked that the Commission allocate \$3,000 to increase the project budget from \$12,000 to \$15,000 as a show of faith. Commissioner Coleman questioned whether funds could come from elsewhere since the Commission's budget is so low. Commissioner Bakke suggested that this project lends itself to fundraising. The Commission discussed taking a wait and see approach before discussing increasing the project budget.

Motion: Move to proceed with the Bill Bliss Memorial Project.

MOVED: DeMarzo; Seconded: Usich: Ayes: Unanimous.

Next step: Set meeting with Bay Trails, Mrs. Bliss and subcommittee to discuss RFP.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE, CALIFORNIA NATIVE

Item tabled.

ARTIST SERIES

Commissioner Bakke reported that the subcommittee met and is in the process of brainstorming the format for the Artist Series, setting dates and determining honorariums. The artist series groups of artists are currently falling in three categories – muralists, California Avenue, and green. Bakke commented that the intent of the artist series is for artists to speak about the public art process, how they see public art, and their relationship to art with respect to Palo Alto. Craighead reminded the Commission that one postcard needs to be developed showing the full details of the artist series before the series begins. Commissioner Acebo-Davis stated that the subcommittee will meet before the November meeting to work on the series details. Commissioner Coleman suggested contacting Stanford for the possibility of a joint program. Craighead asked the subcommittee to contact Katsanes when they have identified possible dates for the series and she will reserve the auditorium for those dates. She commented that the past Artist Series subcommittee may have already set the honorarium with the artists. Commissioner Acebo-Davis

with explore the honorarium issue with ex-commissioner Cooper. This item is tabled until November.

LYTTON PLAZA

Craighead stated that the subcommittee met with Claire Campbell, Le Levy and Barbara Gross and that the subcommittee will make this report. Coleman shared a new drawing she received at that meeting. The main change to the project is that the circular fountain has shifted to a corner fountain element. The subcommittee intends to write a letter to the ARB and other parties with their comments. The subcommittee is unhappy about how Digital DNA has been moved to the back of the plaza. The artwork deserves a better location on the plaza. Commissioner Bakke stated that he wants Digital DNA moved to the center of the plaza or closer to the sidewalk along University Avenue or Emerson Street. Craighead stated that she believes the new intention of the plaza is to have it set up to act as a stage area for speeches, music performances, and to serve as a gathering place. Subcommittee would like to explore having an artist involved in the fountain, and/or a having a mural that incorporates a dedication plaque. The Commission still does not know what the art dollars for this project will be. Acebo-Davis suggested that the art budget could be used to embellish pavers. The question was raised on who is responsible for paying for moving Digital DNA. Craighead stated that she will look into this. Katsanes will research how much it cost to install the sculpture. Bakke volunteered to write a letter to the ARB with the Commission's comments and concerns about Lytton Plaza. Craighead wants to review the letter and wants the chair or vice-chair to sign it. Craighead stated that this item will return to the ARB on December 6.

MITCHELL PARK SCULPTURE PROJECT

Craighead announced that the postcards have been mailed out. Staff will try to have an announcement for the dedication event placed on the CANS system. The subcommittee can try to contact the Palo Alto Weekly about this event. Commissioner Coleman reported that a potential donor has a question about who assumes liability at this event if a citizen falls ill from the donated food.

Next step: Staff will research the question of liability for donated foodstuffs at an event. Subcommittee was directed to contact Katsanes with any question on dedication setup.

FOLLOW-UP TO RETREAT

The Commission expressed their appreciation for Stephen Wagner's retreat facilitation. The Commission decided to begin their November 20th meeting at 6:00 p.m. in able to have enough time to discuss the reports which will come from the retreat subcommittees. Each subcommittee is asked to email their subcommittee meeting reports to staff so that staff can distribute to the full Commission by November 13. Commission questioned how long they would like to plan ahead with both short and long term strategies, i.e. 1, 3, 5, or 10 years. Craighead stated that the end product from the Commission exploring these strategies could potentially lead to the formation of a new Municipal Arts Plan. Commissioner Bakke stated he wanted more freedom at the retreat to discuss issues and recommends that a part 2 to the retreat be scheduled after 6 months.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE PROJECTS

Craighead reported that the Bruce Beasley CMR will be on the Council agenda on November 10.

ONGOING

PALO ALTO PUBLIC ART WEBSITE

The Commission would like to maintain the current domain name for the Palo Alto public art website. Staff is asked to research this. This will allow for marketing consistency. Commission Sunde reported that he had reviewed Seattle's website and is impressed. Commissioner Usich has researched New York's site. The website item is to be placed on next month's agenda.

MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION & DEACCESSIONING

Craighead reported that Andrea Antonaccio has begun documenting light readings and condition reports

for the collection.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES

Craighead announced that the website is up and voting is occurring. The deadline for vote has been shifted to December 5, 2008.

FILAREE

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

No report.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

No report.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November 8 – Reminder for the dedication of Arch-Cradle by artist Michael Szabo.

November 10 – Bruce Beasley CMR on Council agenda.

NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 20, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craighead announced that the current PAC Collection exhibition in the Civic Center Lobby is scheduled to be removed on October 27th.

Vice Chair announced that the Holiday Party should be on the November agenda.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.