

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, August 20, 2009
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Terry Acebo-Davis, Ally Richter, Larisa Usich,
Kenneth Huo, Nancy Coleman, Elise Griffin DeMarzo
Staff present: Linda Craighead, Staff Liaison to the Commission
Kelly Morariu, Assistant to the City Manager
Council Liaison: Jack Morton

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of July 16, 2009 approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners reviewed the CIP budget and General Fund Balance. Craighead announced that this is her last meeting before she retires on September 3. She introduced Kelly Morariu, Assistant to City Manager who will be the temporary liaison to the Public Art Commission and interim Division Manager, Arts & Sciences until the position is filled.

NEW BUSINESS

BLACKROCKARTS.ORG – Linda Gass, Advisory Board Member, Blackrockarts.org gave an introductory presentation to the Commission on temporary art opportunities. Gass stated that their Executive Director would like to give a broader presentation to the Commission at a future meeting. Blackrockarts.org temporary art installations support and promote community-based interactive art and civic participation. Many of their installations have been previously installed at Burning Man. Renowned artists such as David Best has created temporary installations through Blackrockarts.org. Commissioners expressed interest in learning more about this opportunity. Commissioner Acebo-Davis questioned whether Blackrockarts.org has a site in mind in Palo Alto, and that the Civic Center Plaza could be a potential site. Gass asked the Commission to provide a list of sites with map, and for help with permits.

ACTION

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY – Election of Officers - Commission discussed Election of Officers for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Huo nominated Commissioner Acebo-Davis as Chair. Commissioner Acebo-Davis respectfully declined.

Motion: Commissioner Acebo-Davis nominated Commissioner DeMarzo as Chair.

Commissioner DeMarzo accepted nomination. No other nominations made. Ayes:

Unanimous.

Motion: Commissioner DeMarzo nominated Commissioner Acebo-Davis as Vice-Chair for another term. Commissioner Acebo-Davis accepted nomination. No other nominations made. Ayes: Unanimous.

RETREAT ON SEPTEMBER 26- Commissioners discussed allocating funds to hire facilitator Stephen Wagner and the timing of part 2 of the retreat. Commissioner Richter recommended that part 2 occur after the vacant commission position has been filled and the new commissioner has attended one meeting. She reported that Wagner's fee is \$225.00. Richter asked staff to provide PAC materials and accomplishments to Wagner. Commissioners identified November 4 and 5 as potential dates for part 2 of the retreat.

Motion: Move to approve \$225.00 for Stephen Wagner to facilitate retreat.

MOVED: Richter; Seconded: Coleman. Ayes: Unanimous.

MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION – Commissioner DeMarzo reported that there are approximately 100 artworks citywide that still need to be photographed for the database. She asked for \$1500 to continue work on collection including repair, reframing and photography. Commissioner DeMarzo stated that Andrea Antonaccio will make repairs to frames, transfer viable slide images of artwork to digital images, and remove endangered artworks from frames into flat storage. Craighead reported that photographer Jane Peterman has been asked to provide a quote for photographing artworks at the Civic Center. This will be agendaized for the next meeting. Commissioner Coleman recommends that the Commission discuss allocating a budget for refurbishment each budget year.

Motion: Move to allocate \$1500 for Andrea Antonaccio to begin work on maintenance of City collection.

MOVED: DeMarzo; Seconded: Acebo-Davis: Ayes: Unanimous.

BROCHURE – Commissioner Usich asked for \$1500.00 for funds for development of brochure and art walk PDFs. She stated that graphic designer Melanie Gryboski will develop brochure using concept from Lunar Design. Gryboski will also create PDF documents of walking tours to post online and for print.

Motion: Move to allocate funds, not to exceed \$1500.00, for graphic designer Melanie Gryboski to create brochure and PDFs.

MOVED: Usich; Seconded: Acebo-Davis: Ayes: Unanimous.

PUBLIC ART WEBSITE AND CONTENT – Commissioner Usich recommended hiring Roland Meyer to recommend new hosting service, build new Public Art Commission website with new look created by Lunar Design, transfer content as need from existing site and test website. Commissioner Coleman asked all commissioners to be responsible for testing site.

Motion: Move to approve \$2,000.00 for Roland Meyer to begin work on the website.

MOVED: Richter; Seconded: Coleman: Ayes: Unanimous.

TEMPORARY ART GUIDELINES

Commissioner DeMarzo asked the Commission to approve the draft temporary art guidelines in concept. She asked for feedback on the draft guidelines. Commissioner Richter agrees in concept but wants to see more details spelled out in the guidelines. Craighead commented that the draft guidelines and loan form will need to go to the Attorney's office for review after the Commission approves in concept. Commissioner DeMarzo asked the site committee to prepare a list of potential art sites looking at all of Palo Alto's parks and open spaces. Commissioner Huo joined the Site committee.

Motion: Move to approve this draft document in concept as a new guideline for temporary art.

MOVED: Acebo-Davis: Seconded: DeMarzo: Ayes: Unanimous.

Next step: Commission will approve temporary art guidelines after document review by the City Attorney.

NON-ACTION

ARTIST BANK/MAILING LIST – Commissioner Richter reported she has been working on creating the mailing list using Excel. Commission will make use of the artist organization posting list provided by Commissioner DeMarzo for upcoming RFPs. Commissioner Acebo-Davis recommends that Commissioners join Americans for the Arts to keep up with news and events in the art world and to make use of their artist resources.

PERCENT FOR ART – MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY AND OTHER PROJECTS – Craighead reported that the Beasley contract has been prepared. Craighead announced that the Bruce Beasley CMR is on the Council consent calendar on October 5. Council Liaison Morton recommended that Commissioners attend the Council meeting in support of the project. Commissioner DeMarzo reported that the subcommittee is focusing in on which art pieces they want to work on for the center/library. She commented that everyone is exciting about working with artist team Reed/Madden. Artist team has met with architect and architect is reviewing their ideas. Commissioner DeMarzo commented that Reed/Madden will probably return to Commission with a presentation. Projects being considered are artist-designed bollards, courtyard wall, a new media piece on soffit, and a mural in teen room that will occur later in process. Commissioner Richter asked who will be paying for these artworks. Craighead said that the Commission will fund these projects over the next three years and bollards are coming out of the construction budget. Now that the projects are identified the subcommittee will come forth with artist fees and flesh out details for these projects. Subcommittee will need to decide to create RFPs for each project or to group all projects in one RFP. Commissioner Coleman expressed interest in a revolving gallery idea for the library.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN PROJECT

Commissioner Richter asked Commission to review draft scope of work. Craighead commented that the public wants the fountain up and running until the new fountain is in place. Parks staff is looking into repairing the existing pump.

LYTTON PLAZA

Craighead announced that Digital DNA has been relocated to the Municipal Service Center for the duration of the renovation of Lytton Plaza.

BILL BLISS MEMORIAL ART PROJECT

Commissioner DeMarzo reported that the Bliss family has an issue with artist James Moore's proposed figure holding his helmet instead of wearing it. She believes that the artist's newest sketch conflicts with his original vision and that the Commission shouldn't ask the artist to change his direction. Commissioners Acebo-Davis and Coleman expressed their concern about a helmetless bicyclist but there was general consensus to go with the artist's vision.

Next step: Commissioner DeMarzo will return to the family to ask them to approve the earlier design.

ARTIST DESIGNED BIKE RACKS

Commissioner DeMarzo reported that the subcommittee will meet to discuss re-launching the Bike Rack RFP.

ARTIST SERIES

Commissioners reviewed dates and asked staff to check the Art Center calendar for other events that might potentially conflict.

SITING FILAREE AT GREER PARK

Craighead had no update.

NEW IDEAS OR TOPICS FOR DUTURE DISCUSSION TO BE AGENDIZED FOR NEXT MEETING

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Richter and Coleman have upcoming art openings.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice-Chair Acebo-Davis adjourned meeting at 9:30 pm.