

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, February 15, 2007
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of January 18, 2007 approved as corrected.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

NEW BUSINESS

COURTESY REVIEW

Paul Mennaga, presented a proposed sound wall project at the 96-unit development by Classic Communities at 3270 W. Bayshore. Mennaga is looking for feedback from the Commission on the proposed artwork for the sound wall. Artwork is inspired by Rigo 03. Commissioners gave feedback and commented that they like the approach, text, and the environmental message of the artwork.

ACTION

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY MURAL

Craighead reported on the first Art in City Project. Commissioner Acebo-Davis reported that there were 25 artist submissions, four finalists, and after lengthy discussion the panel chose Jeff Petersen as the project artist. Mural is playful, colorful, and has quirky characters. Petersen will incorporate book covers into the mural which will give the artwork a slight three-dimensional quality. Melinda Wing, Children’s Library supervisor, Debra Jacobs, Public Works Engineering, and Craighead commented on the success of the selection process. Wing believes that children will love the artwork.

Motion: Move to accept Jeff Petersen and mural design.

MOVED: Negrin: Seconded: Deem: Ayes: Cooper, Frankel, Acebo-Davis, Negrin, Deem. Noes: Kirkeby.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN

Subcommittee requested that the Commission contract with artist Bruce Beasley over four years for a fountain project. Craighead reported that there is a proposed capital improvement project (CIP) project for California Avenue which includes \$50,000 for repair or replacement of the existing fountain. If Council approves this CIP the design phase will occur in fiscal year 2007/2008 and the construction will begin summer 2008. Craighead commented that Bruce Beasley has agreed to provide engineering drawings for the sculpture.

Motion: Move to accept the project.

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

BRIAN COLEMAN, *EXCEL*

Artist Brian Coleman presented of his past neon artwork over 35 years. Coleman’s artwork is well known at the Museum of Neon Art and he has many neon sculptures in Japan. Coleman proposes to recreate the neon sculpture. Sculpture will be made in six-foot lengths and will have a glass frame to support it. Metal cabinet will need to be removed and the existing brick wall cleaned if necessary. The Commission was impressed by Coleman’s past artwork. Coleman stated that he can complete the artwork by the end of

April. Artwork will have the same scale but he will use slightly different colors. Coleman said that neon can be made to be visible in daylight as well as at night. Ninety percent of his artwork is made to be viewed at night. Commissioners commented it might be a good idea to have a lighting ceremony when the neon sculpture is complete.

Motion: Move to contract with Brian Coleman for \$5,000 to recreate the neon sculpture.

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

DONATION

Commissioner Deem announced Annette Ashton's proposal for the Commission to accept an artwork by Jim Schneider into the collection. Ashton has suggested this artwork for Hoover Park. Craighead stated that the artwork would not necessarily be sited at Hoover Park. Commissioners stated that they thought the artwork was not appropriate for the Art in Public Places collection. Vice-Chair Kirkeby said that Midtown can accept the artwork and place it on private property if they chose.

Next step: Commission Deem to contact Ashton about the Commission's decision.

DEDICATION EVENT(S)

Commission selected April 22 as the date for the dedication event. Commission decided to put funds towards advertisement rather than creating a poster for this event. Subcommittee was formed: Negrin, Kirkeby, and Frankel. Deem offered print support for this event. She will design ad. Subcommittee will provide information to Deem for this ad. Negrin asked for information on Benton, Steinman, and other California Avenue artists.

Motion: Move to allocate \$500.00 toward the ad and dedication event celebration.

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

CAP APPLICATION AND PERMANENT COLLECTION

Craighead reported that Ann Lindbeck applied for a CAP grant on behalf of the Art in Public Places collection and was awarded the grant. This grant will fund an assessor to review how the two-dimensional collection is being stored and make recommendations for any changes. Craighead stated that there is a required charge of up to \$700.00 that the Commission will need to contribute towards the Collections Assessment Fee. Heritage Preservation Trust will then contribute approximately \$3,000+ for the cost of a conservation assessor for the Art in Public Places collection. Commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ann Lindbeck for her work on this grant.

Motion: Move to allocate up to \$700 for grant.

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

Craighead reported that letters have been sent out to the first two batches of artists/donors to notify them of the deaccession of the artwork. Craighead has reserved the auditorium from December 11 – 13 for the sale of the artwork. The Commission discussed holding a special meeting in September to view all the deaccessioned artwork together. Commission will need to form a sub-committee to plan the sale/auction.

NON-ACTION

MITCHELL PARK SITE

Craighead reported that the RFP was mailed out and submissions are due back on April 4.

CHARLES GINNEVER SCULPTURE

Craighead reported that she now has the new contact name for the person responsible of the sculpture at Hewlett Packard.

GREG BROWN MURAL

Katsanes reported that Greg Brown has visited the mural site at Restoration Hardware and found no graffiti on the mural. Katsanes will follow-up on relocating the plaque at the Midtown Mural site.

OUTREACH

Commissioner Negrin asked for more outreach to teens. He recommended that we create a flier of the April 22 dedication event and distribute it to the local junior and high schools. Craighead suggested that there is almost enough Youth Art in the collection to plan an exhibit in the Civic Center Lobby.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES

Craighead reported that Yates work on The Color of Palo Alto is ongoing. Yates is looking at September for completion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper announced that he is a grandfather.

Commissioner Deem announced that she has a solo show at the Center for the Arts in Mountain View.

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Cooper adjourned meeting at 8:55 p.m.