

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

Commissioners present: Ron Cooper, Paula Kirkeby, Tenley Bick,
Laura Deem, Terry Acebo-Davis, Karen Frankel
Commissioners absent: David Negrin
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 February 15, 2007 approved as corrected.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

ACTION

NEW BUSINESS: PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Joe Teresi, Sr. Engineer, Public Works introduced this new Art in City Project at 2027 East Bayshore Road. Project architects Chuck Anderson and Chuck Leoni presented public art opportunities for the Commission to consider at the San Francisquito Creek Storm Water Pump Station (project budget \$250,000; art budget \$2,500.00). This site is adjacent to creek and trails making it user friendly to hikers at this location. Vice Chair Kirkeby asked the architects what artwork they envisioned on their building. Leoni commented that water-themed tiles or a mural would be appropriate for this site. There is another potential surface for an art element on the zinc chimney. Bick would like to see art on both surfaces. The chimney faces East Bayshore Road and would be seen only by vehicular traffic so the Commission surmised that it may not be the best site for the artwork. The side of the building that faces the hiking and creek trails would allow hikers the pleasant surprise of turning a corner and discovering art. Chair Cooper asked for clarity on the dimensions of the building. The Commission expressed their excitement on having a new surface for art. Project timeline: construction commences July 2007 for approximately one year. Artwork would need to be incorporated in spring 2008.

Next steps: Subcommittee formed: Kirkeby, Deem, and Acebo-Davis. Subcommittee plan to visit the site. A RFP will be created using the template for the Children’s Library Mural Project as a model. This RFP will note the project budget at \$2,500.00 but indicate the Commission’s intent to review the project budget based on the artist proposal. Commission may then decide to add additional monies to this project. Craighead asked Commissioners to send Katsanes the names of artists they would like to be contacted about the RFP. Craighead announced that this RFP will be an open call process.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN

Chair Cooper reported on Beasley’s request to receive \$50,000 the first year with the remaining budget to be paid over an additional three years. Vice Chair Kirkeby and Commissioner Frankel reported on a recent meeting with CAADA. CAADA has been approached by Bob Morris regarding the possibility of leftover VTA grant money (\$130,000) that may be available for the California Avenue Streetscape. CAADA will need to apply with the VTA to be considered for some of the leftover funds. CAADA’s priorities for these funds are crosswalks, bulb outs, bike racks and the fountain.

Next steps: Craighead will contact Bob Morris regarding the possibility of leftover VTA grant money. Commission asked staff to confirm the project budget with Beasley for \$110,000. Craighead would like the Commission to be aware of all related project costs, i.e., pool, fountain hookup, before they proceed with this project. Sub-committee discussed visiting Beasley at his studio in Oakland.

MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT COLLECTION

Commissioners voted to deaccession or retain six (6) artworks selected for deaccession.

The following artworks were approved for deaccession: *Untitled* by Craig Antrim; *Untitled* by artist Franek; *Untitled* by artist John Koenig; *Annie, Annie, It's All Over* by artist Clare Ernst Struble; and *Untitled* by artist Joyce Weinstein. Commission was undecided on *Untitled* by Lila Katzen, so this artwork will return for another vote at the April meeting. Commission received a new packet of artworks recommended for deaccession for review at the April meeting. Craighead reported on Ann Lindbeck's success with the improved art storage in the Public Art collection cage. Commissioners asked staff to extend their thanks and appreciation to Lindbeck. Lindbeck has requested resumes from the assessors. Katsanes will forward these resumes to the sub-committee for their review. Kirkeby reported that the sculpture *Go Mama* by Marta Thoma needs polishing.

NON-ACTION

DEDICATION EVENT(S) ON APRIL 22 (EARTH DAY)

Commission discussed plans for this event. Dedication event will run from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Event will follow the example of a walking tour and will begin at Benton sculpture, move on to the banners on California Avenue, then to Bishop Building Murals and finish with Thoma sculpture at Bowden Park. Vice-Chair Kirkeby and Commissioner Frankel reported on their disappointment in their failed meeting with Commissioner Negrin regarding Palo Alto Weekly outreach. Commissioner Bick will be meeting with Rebecca Wallace, Palo Alto Weekly on March 16.

Next steps: Sub-committee and Deem to design postcard and Benton poster. Chair Cooper will try to arrange for musicians from Gunn High School to play at this event. Microphone and tables are needed for this event. Staff will research what is going on at the Soccer Field on April 22.

MITCHELL PARK SITE

Craighead reported that April 14th is the 50th Anniversary of Mitchell Park.

Next steps: Staff will find out what is being planned for this anniversary.

CHARLES GINNEVER SCULPTURE

No report.

GREG BROWN MURAL

Craighead reported that staff has received a bid for \$125.00 the removal and relocation of the plaque for \$125.00. This task is in process.

BISHOP BUILDING MURAL

Vice-chair Kirkeby and Commissioner Frankel reported on their recent meeting with artist Joey Piziali. Kirkeby is concerned about how the black background of Piziali's mural will work alongside the other two murals. Craighead asked Kirkeby to discuss her concerns with Piziali. Frankel reported that the Huffman mural has not been graffiti coated yet.

Next steps: Contact Huffman regarding coating the mural.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY MURAL

Craighead reported that there has been progress on the building project, but the project has not yet reached the stage of completion that would allow Jeff Peterson to begin the mural.

BRIAN COLEMAN, *EXCEL*

Craighead reported that Facilities Maintenance Division is not available to remove the metal cabinet from the Art Center and discard it. Staff is awaiting a quote from G. V. Construction to handle this task. Chair Cooper reported that artist Brian Coleman is actively working on the recreation of *Excel*.

OUTREACH

Frankel reported that there are plans in place to have a Farmers Market on Sundays on California Avenue beginning in June or July. This could be a great opportunity for the Commission to have California Avenue Public Art Tour brochures available for the public, and to lead the public on tours of the California Avenue artwork. Kirkeby announced that there is a business owner on California Avenue that is interested in siting another sculpture on California Avenue.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES

Craighead reported that Yates is planning on returning to Palo Alto for a period of six months to finish phase II of the project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper announced that the City of Santa Rosa rents sculptures from artists. In the past the Commission was involved in a similar process. Cooper would like to agendaize this item for the April meeting.

Commissioner Frankel announced that Commissioner Deem will show her artwork at the Sunset Celebration Weekend in Menlo Park in May.

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Cooper adjourned meeting at 8:46 p.m.