

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, April 19, 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, David Negrin, Karen Frankel
Commissioners absent: Terry Acebo-Davis
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 March 15, 2007 approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC ART RENTAL/LEASE PROGRAM

Commissioner Cooper introduced a public art rental/lease program currently in place with the Santa Rosa Arts Council. Santa Rosa has allocated \$30,000 to install 13 works of art which they rent/lease from the artists. Cooper stated the merit of this program is that the City would have new public art on display without a large cash outlay, and artists have artwork that they like to see displayed. After the artworks are installed it is more convenient to purchase the artwork. Vice Chair Kirkeby stated that the Commission ran a similar program many years back. The City purchased sculptures by artists Slater, Abramovitz, and Wagner using this method. Commission discussed seeking corporate donations for the rental/lease program, and proposed installing the sculpture along the Page Mill Road corridor. Sub-committee formed: Cooper, Frankel.

NEW ARTWORK FOR CALIFORNIA AVENUE

Vice Chair Kirkeby and Commission Frankel reported that Paul's European Cobblery is interested in public art at their business location on California Avenue. The Cobblery will pay all or almost of the budget.

Next steps: Kirkeby and Frankel plan to recommend artists Tony Natsoulas and Terri Kvenild for this proposed project to the Cobblery.

ACTION

RESITING STEVEN J. RAND SCULPTURE

Craighead reported that she and Commissioner Frankel have identified a site for the Steven J. Rand sculpture at Lucie Stern Community Center. Staff has a bid for \$1500 to create a cement pad that is similar to the pad used for the artwork when it was sited at the Children's Library. Commission requested that the shape of the base be round and lower to the ground.

Motion: Move to allocate \$1500 for a round base that is shorter.

MOVED: Cooper; **Seconded:** Frankel; **Ayes:** Unanimous.

MITCHELL PARK SITE

Commissioner Cooper asked the Commission to reopen the RFP process to attract more proposals. Commissioner Bick requested that the Commission review the five proposals received to select artists to be reviewed by the community from that pile before reopening the RFP process. Commission reviewed the RFPs and decided to ask Szabo, Alcantara, and the team of Tkalcevic and Bivetto (Diversity) to create a maquette of their proposed artwork to show the community. Artist Ceevah Sobel will be invited to resubmit her proposal. The Commission thought that her artwork proposes a safety issue. Muhlestein

Sculptures Inc. will not be invited to resubmit. Commissioner Bick asked the Commission to allocate \$300 to each artist to create a maquette in preparation for the public process.

Motion: Move to allocate \$300.00 each for the three artists for a maquette.

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

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN

Craighead reported that staff has received a preliminary bid estimate from Pacific Water Art for \$150,000 to replace mechanical, plumbing, and electrical work at this fountain site. Pacific Water Art is familiar with the plumbing at this site and believes that the current plumbing isn't adequate for the Beasley fountain sculpture. Pacific Water Art needs to communicate with Beasley before they can submit a formal bid. Pacific Water Art believes the pool portion of this project could cost \$30,000. The Commission was unhappy with this bid. Chair Cooper will speak with Beasley to get another recommendation for a bid. Cooper stated that he has spoken with a company who may be interested in providing a bid for this job. Kirkeby stated that if push comes to shove with fountain project can shift into a sculpture project instead. Commission would like to have a styrofoam maquette of the fountain to aid in getting bids from vendors. **Next steps:** Chair Cooper will follow-up with Beasley regarding a recommendation of a vendor and ask him to provide a maquette made out of styrofoam. Staff will follow-up with Pacific Water Art for a firm bid on this project.

MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT COLLECTION

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

The following artworks were approved for deaccession: *Dots and Dashes* and *Light on My Bridge Deck* by artist Gertrude Bleiberg; *Silent Man III* by artist Michael Manzaourakos; *1.77* by artist Archie Minasian; *Valley Café* by Fran Pillsbury; and *Autumn Summer* by artist Chris Smith. Craighead reported that Ann Lindbeck will be relocating to the East Coast this summer. Lindbeck has offered a recommendation for her replacement for the deaccession process. Lindbeck will work with the CAP assessor this summer. Craighead gave a status report for the collection maintenance. Thirty works of art are missing around the City. The Commission asked staff to provide them with a list of the lost artwork.

CUBBERLEY ARTISTS DONATION

Craighead asked the Commission to review and accept two artworks by Cubberley artist Sharon Chinen into the permanent collection. There is a requirement that all Cubberley artists donate an artwork for their six-year term. Chinen has generously agreed to donate an additional artwork. Majority of commissioners preferred *Pod 1 (Eve)* and *Pod 5 (Pupa)*. Kirkeby preferred the artwork entitled *Hanging Pods*.

Motion: To accept Pod 1 (Eve) and Pod 5 (Pupa) into the permanent collection.

MOVED: Cooper: Seconded: Frankel: Ayes: Unanimous.

Next step: Chair Cooper volunteered to write a thank you letter to Chinen. Cooper wants to attend one of the Cubberley meetings to remind the artists of their commitment to donate an artwork.

YOUTH ART PURCHASE AWARD 2007

Chair Cooper asked the Commission to allocate \$500.00 for Youth Art Purchase Award 2007. Last year's purchase awards were distributed as follows: \$250.00 for high school student, \$150.00 for junior high student, and \$100.00 to an elementary school student. Sub-committee was formed for art selection:

Commissioners Frankel, Bick, and Negrin. Youth Art exhibit opens at the Art Center on May 16.

Motion: Move to allocate \$500.00 for Youth Art Purchase Award 2007.

MOVED: Cooper: Seconded: Frankel: Ayes: Unanimous.

Next step: Subcommittee agreed to meet at the Art Center for art selection May 11 at 10:00 a.m.

NON-ACTION

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Craighead asked subcommittee for feedback on RFP by the May meeting. Kirkeby recommended artist Peter Boiger and Terri Kvenild. Cooper recommended environmental artist Ned Kahn for this project. Craighead said that PAC can have a selective RFP process. She asked the Commission to come to the

May meeting with their recommendations for artists. The Commission will need to think about the project budget and decide whether they want this item as action to increase project funds or not.

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. Fletcher Benton will be present to formally donate the maquette of Tilted Donut #5 to Mayor Kishimoto.

Next steps: Thank you letters are needed for the merchants who contributed food for this event. Frankel will provide staff with a list of merchants and her contacts.

CHARLES GINNEVER SCULPTURE

Craighead reported that HP is still involved in the sale of the property at this site. HP is aware that the City of Palo Alto is interested in this sculpture. The HP campus straddles both Palo Alto and Mountain View which has complicated the sale of the property.

GREG BROWN MURAL

Craighead reported that the removal and relocation of this plaque has occurred.

Next steps: Staff will make arrangements to have the wall repainted where the plaque was removed.

BISHOP BUILDING MURAL

Vice-chair Kirkeby reported that she had spoken with artist Joey Piziali and he has altered his design. Kirkeby and Frankel are very pleased with the mural. Piziali is scheduled to have the mural completed by the art walk event. Frankel reported that the Huffman mural has not been graffiti coated yet.

Next steps: Contact Huffman again regarding coating the mural.

BRIAN COLEMAN, *EXCEL*

Craighead reported that the metal cabinet has been removed from the Art Center entry way wall and discarded. The wall has been cleaned in preparation of installation of the neon sculpture. Chair Cooper reported that artist Brian Coleman is actively working on the completion of *Excel*.

Next steps: Cooper reported that Coleman will drop by the Art Center next week to look at the wall.

OUTREACH

Commissioner Frankel requested that Joey Piziali have the opportunity to exhibit in the Civic Center this year.

Next steps: Staff will communicate with Frankel the availability of the Civic Center.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY MURAL

No report.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES

No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Deem reported that her exhibit at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts will end on Tuesday, April 24.

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Cooper adjourned meeting at 9:20 p.m.