

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, March 20, 2008
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Ron Cooper, Terry Acebo-Davis, Karen Frankel, Paula Kirkeby, David Negrin, Einar Sunde
Commissioners absent: Laura Deem
Staff present: Linda Craighead, Staff Liaison, Director Arts & Sciences
Staff absent: Darlene Katsanes, Program Asst., Arts & Sciences
Council Liaison: John Barton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of February 20, 2008 approved as corrected.
FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

John Horan, 2563 Cowper Street, Palo Alto 94306 thanked the Commission for the lovely public art on California Avenue and the City for placing the memorial plaque for his son, Mark Horan, at the fountain site. He also thanked artist Bruce Beasley for assuring him that with the new art work the plaque will remain.

Robert Jackson, 2929 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, stated that the California Avenue Underpass is a heavily trafficked bicycle path. Last year on Bike to Work Day over 500 bicyclists passed this area. Many people use this underpass for the Farmers Market and on their way to work. He believes that the bicycle traffic should follow the example of our roundabouts in Palo Alto and that changing the curb cuts could clarify the direction of traffic at this site.

Ron Robinson, 4164 Willkie Way, Palo Alto, 94306 stated that the image with benches is troubling and that in his conversation with Craighead she has clarified with him that the City has not yet completed a site plan. Robinson wants to go on record that he prefers the fountain. He said that the proposal sculpture would probably invite kids to climb it.

The Commission commented that they will keep all the comments in mind.

ACTION

MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT COLLECTION – Craighead requested \$295.00 for staff training on File Maker Pro software at The Support Group in San Mateo. The public art collection database is now maintained on this software. The City does not support this software so training outside the City is necessary.

Motion: Move to allocate \$295.00 for staff training on File Maker Pro software.
MOVED: Frankel; Seconded: Negrin: Ayes: Unanimous.

Craighead reported that all the revisions have been incorporated into the CAP report. Craighead communicated that Orlenko, consultant who wrote the report feels that the redundancies in the report are an important tool and should remain. She writes that the report can be used to make the Commission's case for funding and specific sections will be referred to. To remove the

redundancies means that in many cases, the sections will not stand alone and the context of the will be lost. Craighead recommends that the Commission leave the report structure as is. Acebo-Davis recommended adding the date to the report.

Next step: Craighead asked the Commission to review the report and Orlenko's email regarding the redundancies and be prepared to prioritize the recommendations from the report at next months meeting.

YOUTH ART 2008 – Chair Cooper asked the Commission for \$500.00 for Youth Art Purchase Awards for 2008 and to continue this program. The artwork will be installed by May 9. The exhibition will open on Mother's Day, May 11 and the opening will be held on Wed., May 14, 2008. Commissioners Acebo-Davis, Sunde and Negrin volunteered to be on the art selection subcommittee this year. The subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to select the purchase award winners on Friday, 5/9.

Motion: Move to continue this program and allocate \$500.00 for Youth Art Purchase Awards 2008. MOVED: Cooper: Seconded: Kirkeby: Ayes: Unanimous.

NON-ACTION

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES - Artist Sam Yates gave a short presentation on how to access the installation on the façade. As of today, the installation is 50% installed and will be fully installed on Friday. Commission Acebo-Davis wants a postcard or flyer created about the project to be made available to the public.

Next steps: Commissioner Frankel will meet with Yates and Craighead to discuss the unveiling of *The Color of Palo Alto*.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT – Craighead reported that she has received approval for the project budget to be paid over three years. Since the project budget is a City contract over \$85,000 it will go to Council for approval. Staff is preparing the contract.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE UNDERPASS_– Cooper reported that he has received a bid from artist Nina Koepke for working with children to create a new artwork at this site using tiles. Koepke's bid is \$60,000, and too high. Commissioner Negrin recommended the current mural be renovated. Commissioner Acebo-Davis recently viewed and was impressed by some public art created by artists using a mold of natural occurrences, i.e., the inside of a redwood tree, that they pressed into walls creating reliefs. Acebo-Davis will research these artists' names. Sunde is still interested in the tile idea. Tiles could be sold at the Farmers Market and decorated by the public. This idea would involve the Commission monitoring a booth each week at the market. Vice Chair Kirkeby suggested there be a competition involving students to create individual murals for the underpass. Craighead said that there is still a possibility for an Art Center children's class to work with an artist as the murals created by Greg Brown. Chair Cooper and Commissioner Sunde will discuss ideas for this site over the next month.

ARTIST SERIES_– Chair Cooper reported that the sub-committee will finalize their plans for the Artist Series within the next week.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION – Craighead reported that contract has been finalized, and that Sobel is working on the engineered drawings for the artwork.

FILAREE – Subcommittee recommended the following sites for the possible relocation of sculpture by Gene Flores: Juana Briones Park, Rinconada Park near fire station, Heritage Park, Robles Park, Sea Scout Building, the annex to Greer Park. Sunde would like to have artwork in south Palo Alto. Kirkeby recommended we locate the artist to ask his opinion for a new base design, if possible.

Next steps: Agendize further discussion for next month. Craighead to talk with Parks staff regarding sites. Staff will research costs for new base, pad and relocation of sculpture.

WEBSITE – Commissioner Acebo-Davis volunteered to liaison with HD Projects regarding website content.

ONGOING

OUTREACH

Craighead advised the Commission that the upcoming public private partnership for Lytton Plaza will have an Art in City Projects element to it.

Commissioner Acebo-Davis asked the status of the advertisement for the upcoming vacant commissioner positions. Craighead reported that she will have more information on the process next week.
Next step: Agendize this topic for next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper announced that Fletcher Benton is receiving an international award next month at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Council liaison Barton recommended that a proclamation be given to Benton.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

