

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, July 17, 2008**  
Palo Alto Civic Center  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Council Conference Room  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners present:** Terry Acebo-Davis, Erik Bakke, Elise Griffin DeMarzo, Ally Richter, Einar Sunde, Larisa Usich  
**Commissioners absent:** Nancy Coleman  
**Staff present:** Linda Craighead, Staff Liaison, Director Arts & Sciences  
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 Commissioner Acebo-Davis.

**ROLL CALL**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of June 19, 2008 approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report. Craighead reviewed both budgets in detail for the benefit of the new Commissioners.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY – WELCOME TO NEW COMMISSIONERS**

New Commissioners Bakke, DeMarzo, Richter and Usich were welcomed to the Commission. Council liaison Barton volunteered to give a quick tutorial on the Brown Act and parliamentary procedures at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**LYTTON PLAZA**

Craighead reported that she attended the Architecture Review Board (ARB) meeting where the proposed public private partnership to redo Lytton Plaza was on the agenda for the first time. There are plans to relocate Digital DNA to another location on this site. The proposed artwork for this site has a water feature. Craighead stated that she will keep the Commission updated on when this project returns to the ARB. There will be a percent for art in city projects attached to this project. The percentage for art will be determined when more is known about the construction budget. The format for call for artists for art in city projects is open call. Barton stated that it would be wise for the Commission to move quickly with reviewing the staff report in their packets to prepare feedback for the ARB feedback on the project. Craighead stated that it might be good for a commissioner to be appointed as a liaison to the Friends of Lytton Plaza project.

Next steps: Commissioners asked to review the Lytton Plaza material, visit the site, and be prepared to comment on the project at their next meeting.

**ACTION**

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Craighead recommended the Commission approve Commissioner Sunde as Chair and Commissioner Acebo-Davis as Vice-chair with any other nominations from new commissioners.

Commissioner Acebo-Davis nominated Commissioner Sunde as Chair. No nominations from new commissioners were presented.

**Motion: Move that Sunde be appointed as Chair.**

**MOVED: Acebo-Davis; Seconded: Usich. Ayes: Acebo-Davis, Bakke, Richter, DeMarzo, Usich.**

**Abstention: Sunde.**

Commissioner Sunde nominated Commissioner Acebo-Davis as Vice-chair. No other nominations were presented.

**Motion: Move that Acebo-Davis be appointed as Vice-Chair.**

**MOVED: Usich; Seconded: DeMarzo. Ayes: Bakke, Richter, DeMarzo, Sunde, Usich. Abstention: Acebo-Davis.**

#### CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION

The “Unveiling of Colors” for The Color of Palo Alto is Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. Craighead announced that Sam Yates does not feel strongly either way about having a reception at this event. Vice-chair Acebo-Davis and Commissioner Usich volunteered to work on putting together a small reception to be held in the Civic Center lobby after the presentation. Vice-chair Acebo-Davis recommended allocating \$200 for refreshments.

**Motion: Move to allocate \$200 for refreshments.**

**MOVED: Sunde; Seconded: Bakke: AYES: Unanimous**

Vice-Chair Acebo-Davis requested that the Commission allocate \$400.00 as an honorarium for Sam Yates to present the “Unveiling of Colors” at the August 5<sup>th</sup> event. This topic was discussed at the last meeting but action was not agendized.

**Motion: Move to allocate \$400 as honorarium for Sam Yates to present “Unveiling of Colors” on August 5.**

**MOTION: Acebo-Davis; Seconded: Bakke: Ayes: Unanimous.**

#### NON-ACTION

#### DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ADVISORY BOARD

The Commission discussed the possibility of having an advisory board or just a list of advisors to call upon for their expertise. The list could consist of past commissioners, community members and emerging artists. Five to seven members would be ideal. Richter suggested that the first step would be to set up criteria, decide who will participate, how participants will be utilized, and then limit their roles. Craighead stated that this discussion would need to be vetted by the City Attorney. Barton stated that as a matter of procedure, first it should be determined if forming an advisory board or list of advisers is possible, and then who.

#### CALIFORNIA AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT

Craighead gave a summary of this project. A new RFP has been sent out to seek a formal bid from vendors to replace existing fountain with new fountain by Bruce Beasley. CAADA has been trying to fundraise dollars to keep this sculpture project a fountain. The original proposed benches will not be included with the fountain project.

Subcommittee: DeMarzo, Richter.

#### ARTIST SERIES

The past commission had made arrangements for an Artist Series consisting of three dates with scheduled speakers Fletcher Benton and Bruce Beasley as solo speakers, and a group panel consisting of artists Marta Thoma, Greg Brown, Joey Piazali, and Michael Szabo. The series has been postponed and needs be rescheduled. There is a need to remarket the artist series using these previously scheduled speakers. The Commission is welcome to adjust and expand the series.

Subcommittee: Bakke, Usich.

#### WEBSITE

Craighead gave the history of the website. The website started out as a public art piece by Hasan Dasedmir. The public art website was formed when the City was undergoing the process of changing the look of their site. Vice-chair Acebo-Davis wants to see the website linked to the City website. Craighead thinks it may now be possible to transition back to the City site now. The Commission discussed revisiting and clarifying the public art website mission and purpose.

Subcommittee: Acebo-Davis, Bakke, Usich.

## PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISCO QUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Craighead reported that this is the second percent for art in city projects. The first project was the Children's Library mural which was very successful. Construction of the water pump station is in progress. The building will be ready to accept the installation of the artwork by artist Ceevah Sobel in October. The artwork is metal strips of stainless steel formed as waves that will be attached into recesses. Beneath these recesses are the water channels that pump out excess water when the pump station is activated.

## MITCHELL PARK SCULPTURE PROJECT

Craighead announced that the steel sculpture entitled "Arch-Cradle" by artist Michael Szabo will be installed the week of August 28. The community voted for this artwork for Mitchell Park after the Commission juried proposals from six artists for an artwork at this site.

## COLLECTION – POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Craighead announced that she has an intern assigned to working on contacting other Cities to gather information on what policies and procedures they use to manage their art collections. Updating the policies and procedures is one of the recommendations from the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) report that was completed earlier this year. The past Commission prioritized the CAP recommendations at a previous Commission meeting and agreed that updating these policies and procedures is important.

Subcommittee: Richter, DeMarzo, Bakke

Next steps: Vice-chair Acebo-Davis asked that each Commission be given a CD of the collection. Craighead will get a copy of the CAP report to each Commissioner.

## RETREAT

Commission reviewed their calendars to set a date for a retreat. The tentative date is October 11. Vice-chair Acebo-Davis and Commissioner Richter recommended that there could be a scribe/mediator at the retreat. Commission may consider holding the retreat at the Baylands or the Lawn Bowling Green. Sunde commented that past-Commissioner Kirkeby has offered the Smith Anderson press as a retreat site.

Subcommittee: Sunde, Acebo-Davis, Richter.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

Craighead described the various subcommittees throughout the meeting and the new Commissioners signed up for subcommittee roles vacated by outgoing commissioners. She introduced the California Avenue Underpass mural and *Filaree* projects to the Commission.

Subcommittee for California Avenue Underpass: Usich, Bakke

Subcommittee for *Filaree*: Usich, Bakke

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Commission reviewed the list of calendared events.

## NEXT MEETING AGENDA - AUGUST 21, 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Richter announced that she is showing her encaustic artwork in three locations – Pacific Art League, MLK Library at San Jose State, and she is part of an International Encaustic show in San Francisco.

Commissioner Bakke has an exhibition entitled *Ishi Ishii: 31 Years of Freedom*, August 29, 1911 to August 29, 1942 at Queen's Nails Annex Extensions at Muddy Waters, 199 Tiffany Ave., San Francisco. Craighead announced the Nathan Oliveira exhibit at the Palo Alto Art Center.

Commissioner Richter announced she will not be present at the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.