

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, August 21, 2008
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Terry Acebo-Davis, Erik Bakke, Nancy Coleman Elise Griffin
DeMarzo, Einar Sunde, Larisa Usich
Commissioners absent: Ally Richter
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 Sunde.
ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sanford Forte, 280 College Avenue, CA spoke about the fountain on California Avenue. He said that the water noise from the fountain masks the urban noise in this area. Many citizens enjoy the fountain and appreciate the water feature at this site. Forte said that he has changed his opinion about giving his approval at an earlier CAADA meeting for a Bruce Beasley sculpture without a water element. Forte's believes that the public will also oppose having a Bruce Beasley sculpture at this site if it doesn't include a fountain. Forte stated that funds from CAADA are tapped out. He urged the Commission to work with the City to find funds to include the water feature in Beasley's sculpture.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of July 17, 2008 approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commission reviewed the financial report.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY – WELCOME TO NEW COMMISSIONER NANCY COLEMAN
Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Nancy Coleman.

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE AND SAFETY BUILDING – This item is to be referred to as the Public Safety Building in future. Craighead reported that she attended a meeting with other staff regarding this building. There is a percent for art attached to this project which will be calculated when the construction budget is determined. Craighead said that the next step would be for the architect to come to a Commission meeting to give an overview of the project and how he perceives the opportunities for art being incorporated in the building. The artwork could be a sculpture in the plaza, in the entryway or on a wall. Construction of the building can start in spring 2009. A RFP for artists will be developed for this project. Craighead recommends that a subcommittee be formed. This subcommittee will have the task of participating on the jury panel, along with City staff and the project architect, to decide the project artist.

NON-ACTION

BROWN ACT AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Council Liaison Barton presented a tutorial on the Brown Act and Parliamentary procedures to the Commission.

RETREAT – Commission choose the Bay lands Interpretive Center as the site for their retreat on Saturday, October 11, 9-1:00 pm. Commissioners Richter, DeMarzo and Usich each have a recommendation for a retreat facilitator.

Next steps: Subcommittee to review all recommendations for a retreat facilitator and report back at the next meeting with further information including facilitator availability and fee.

SUBCOMMITTEES – Chair Sunde requested that each subcommittee elect a chair. He asked for a quick update from these subcommittees:

Artist series subcommittee plans to meet before the September meeting. Vice-chair Acebo Davis volunteered to join this subcommittee.

Maintenance of City Collection & Deaccessioning subcommittee will meet to look at storage and discuss potential sale options for deaccessioned works. Staff will send questionnaire to each commissioner so that they may prioritize the recommendations from the CAP report.

Public Outreach and Website subcommittees meet separately yet there are areas where each group interests overlap the other. A recommendation was made that a point list be drafted by each subcommittee so the Commission could then explore the overlaps between the subcommittees.

Suggestion was made to develop an email mailing list for outreach.

Filaree will eventually need a subcommittee.

LYTTON PLAZA - Craighead reported that she spoke with Clare Campbell, Planning Department, and Campbell has agreed to keep the Commission updated on this project. Commissioner Bakke provided comments on the Lytton Plaza project. He recommends that the Commission seek input from artists Varella and Maltz on the proposed relocation of Digital DNA. He is not pleased with the current recommendation to move Digital DNA into the back corner of the site close to the refuse and parking area. He stated there could be a youth art project of some sort on Lytton Plaza. There is a question on who would monitor the proposed plaza seating. It would be unfortunate to have this plaza resemble a restaurant seating area.

Council liaison Barton recommended that the Commission be sensitive to the political issues of this public-private project. The subcommittee could speak with the ARB chairs. Ask the designer of the Lytton Plaza project to a Commission meeting to discuss the project and priorities.

Next step: Craighead will set up a meeting between subcommittee and Clare Campbell and others involved in the public private project. Craighead will follow-up with staff to find out what the percent in city projects will be for Lytton Plaza.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION – PHASE II, SAMUEL YATES – Vice chair Acebo-Davis reported on the great success of the August 5 unveiling. The Commission extended a special thank you to Susan Rosenberg for her assistance with the reception. At the presentation Yates raised ideas for possible ongoing activities which include paint sales with a potential for a percentage of the funds going to the Commission that the Commission intends to explore. Vice chair Acebo-Davis stated that there is a time capsule suggestion that needs to be clarified. The bus wrap on the façade will be up through the end of the year and possibly to spring 2009. Commissioner Bakke recommended amplifying the information aspect of the project.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE PROJECTS – Craighead reported that two new bids have been received for the engineering of the fountain pool. Public Works staff, Craighead, and Parks staff are evaluating the bids. Sanford Forte confirmed that CAADA does not have funding available for the fountain. RFP for this project goes to Council on September 22. Craighead reported that discussion on the California Avenue Underpass is tabled. Craighead has learned from Transportation staff that there are potential plans for the underpass to be taken out and redone.

Next step: Craighead will speak with staff regarding additional project funding for the fountain.

WEBSITE – Vice-chair Acebo-Davis reported that HD Projects has not responded to her phone calls or emails about completing his contract. Chair Sunde would like the Commission to have an alternative plan for website maintenance and hosting.

Next steps: Website subcommittee will meet to discuss the future of the website.

MITCHELL PARK SCULPTURE PROJECT – Craighead reported on the completion of project. She said that the artwork has scuff marks on a portion of the work from skate boarders. Craighead has spoken with artist to about the problem. She was talked with Parks staff regarding ways to discourage skateboarders. One solution Parks staff is exploring is planting tufts of grass in front of the cement pad which skateboarders would find difficult to navigate through.

Subcommittee: Coleman, DeMarzo, Acebo-Davis.

Next steps: Craighead will follow-up with Parks staff about the planting option.

ONGOING

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION – Craighead had no status report. Commissioners Coleman and Usich joined the subcommittee.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- a. September 22 – Bruce Beasley CMR on council agenda for approval.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned the meeting at 9:19 pm.