

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, January 15, 2009
Palo Alto Studios
4030 Transport Street
Council Conference Room
5:30 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Sunde.

ROLL CALL

Minutes of December 18, 2008 were approved as corrected.

Commissioner Usich arrived at 5:44 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Craighead reported that there a possibility that the City may need to look at reducing all of the CIP budgets as a cost-saving measure. Craighead recommended that Chair Sunde speak to new Council Liaison Morton regarding the budget.

NON-ACTION

SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Bakke announced that he is considering resigning from the PAC as of the end of January. Mr. Sunde asked Commissioner Bakke to defer and reconsider that decision. The commissioners reviewed the list of subcommittees. In accordance with the bylaws of the PAC, each of the existing subcommittees is dissolved effective immediately. After a discussion about what subcommittees are needed to carry through current projects, each subcommittee, excepting the subcommittees for the Color of Palo Alto and the San Francisquito Creek Pump Station Project were reconstituted for 2009, each with the same membership as served immediately prior to this meeting.

BILL BLISS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Craighead reported that the RFP draft will be sent to Purchasing for formatting. The Commission will receive a copy of the draft RFP to review before the RFP is mailed out. Commissioners were asked to send the contact information to staff of any artists they believe should receive this RFP.

LYTTON PLAZA

Craighead announced that she attended a recent ARB meeting where the ARB unanimously approved the Lytton Plaza project. Craighead stated that Faith Bell of Bells Books was present at the ARB meeting and stated that she has seen people pushing on the *Digital DNA* sculpture.

ARTIST SERIES

The Artist Series postcard has been mailed. Commissioners were asked to drop by the Art Center to pick up postcards to distribute.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Coleman stated that she is working on details to share with Lunar Design for the visual brand. She will be meeting with Lunar Design next Tuesday.

BIKE RACKS

Commissioner DeMarzo reported that she has attended two meetings regarding bike racks. She stated that the City typically pays \$150 per bike rack and her research finds that creative bike racks range from \$700 up. She has met with the Bike Advisory Board Committee. This committee does not want bike racks that aren't functional. The Bike Advisory group will send the Commission their list of desirable locations for bike racks in Palo Alto. Staff was asked to check with the Purchasing Department to see if they can recommend a fabricator. Commissioners suggested that potential contributors to the bike rack project might be IDEO and Goggle.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN PROJECT

Chair Sunde stated that the subcommittee needs to meet and discuss proceeding with the California Avenue Fountain Project. Council has asked that the California Avenue Fountain Project process be modeled after the Szabo process.

WEBSITE

Commissioner Usich presented a sample of what the public art website could look like within the City website. The subcommittee would like to have a Commissioner's column created on the public art website and have Commissioners take turns writing the column. Our current art database does not list descriptive text about each artwork. Usich queried whether the current public art website can be pointed to another server.

ARTS PLAN

Chair Sunde reported that the subcommittee is working on compiling retreat information into a new draft municipal arts plan. He will forward the draft to staff to forward to the commission.

MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY

Craighead reported that she has met with staff, Debra Jacobs, Public Work Engineering and the architect regarding this project. Beasley has spoken with the architect. The architect is pulling together a list of suggested locations for artwork. Sunde stated that the wording of the Council motion needs to be evaluated. Craighead commented that currently the architect is working on incorporating plans for an artwork into the site plans at Mitchell Park. Does the current PAC want a Beasley? Past Commissioners can be brought to a PAC meeting to discuss the history of their process to secure an artwork by Beasley in the City's collection. Chair Sunde noted the concern is with how the artist was selected by Council for Mitchell Park, not with the artist himself. Chair Sunde said he will raise this issue with the Mayor in connection with setting the agenda for the joint session with the Council coming up in February. Chair Sunde intends to write a letter to the Mayor about the Council decision on 12/10/08.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Craighead commented that artwork has been installed and invited commissioners to visit the site.

DEFERRED TO FEBRUARY

MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION

Craighead introduced Alyssa Erickson who will be interning at the Art Center and focusing on public art projects.

FILAREE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.