

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2009**  
Palo Alto Civic Center  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Council Conference Room  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners present:** Terry Acebo-Davis, Elise Griffin DeMarzo, Ally Richter, Einar Sunde, Larisa Usich  
**Commissioners absent:** Nancy Coleman  
**Council Liaison:** Jack Morton  
**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 7:00 p.m. by Chair Sunde.

**ROLL CALL**

Minutes of January 15, 2009 were approved as corrected.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commission reviewed the budget.

**ACTION**

**MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION** - Commission reviewed bid from Andrea Antonaccio for an estimated 65 to 80 hours to complete documentation of the collection. Her hourly rate is \$21.72. Antonaccio's tasks include the completion of 20 photographs she was working on previously, and continuing the process of shooting a photographic record of artwork for the files, taking light meter readings, and updating condition reports of the remaining City artwork located in outlying City facilities. Commissioner Sunde stressed that having these tasks completed is critical to implementing one of the recommendations from the Conservator's Assessment Program (CAP) report. Commissioner DeMarzo commented that hiring the same person would be best for the consistency of the project. She recommended that intern Alyssa Erickson could help Antonaccio expedite the process by assisting with unwrapping and rewrapping of the artwork in storage. Commissioner Acebo-Davis suggested that Jane Peterman be contacted to professionally photograph the City artwork collection pro bono. Craighead recommended that 65 hours not be exceeded for Antonaccio and that having Erickson assist Antonaccio with the artwork in storage should lower the amount of hours. Commissioner Sunde suggested that the Commission vote to approve the high end so that this item is less likely to return to the Commission.  
**Motion: Move to approve a cap of \$1700.00. Vote will have to return if dollar amount is exceeded. MOVED: Acebo-Davis; Seconded: DeMarzo.**

**NON-ACTION**

**JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL**

The joint meeting with Council has been postponed to Monday, April 13. .

**BILL BLISS MEMORIAL ART PROJECT**

Commissioners have received the final RFP draft. They were asked to send any comments on the RFP to Katsanes by Monday. RFP will be mailed out on Tuesday, February 23. Commissioner Sunde said he thinks the RFP looks good. Commissioners Usich and Acebo-Davis asked to see the artist mailing list.

Next step: Katsanes to forward artist mailing list to Commission.

## ARTIST SERIES

Commission discussed ways to further advertise the upcoming talk by artist Bruce Beasley. Council member Morton suggested contacting the Palo Alto Board of Realtors who meets on Fridays. Craighead announced that she will be sending an art alert about this event. Craighead stated that the biggest publicity problem for the Artist Series is that the Commission has been right up against the date for advertising the event. Commissioner Usich stated that a poster could be created for future Artist Series events.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Usich reported that Coleman said that Lunar Design will attend the March meeting to present their design for the Commission's new template.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH (PR & MARKETING)

Commissioners brainstormed ideas to build email lists and outreach to the community. They discussed outreaching to Avenidas, Palo Alto Board of Realtors, CAADA merchants, Media Center, Chamber of Commerce, and asking other cities and art institutions to share their artist email and mailing lists. Craighead reported that Katsanes will be trained on the City gov.delivery email system. This email system might be a vehicle the Commission could use to send out email alerts for Commission events.

## PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Craighead reported that there will be a joint dedication ceremony with Public Works Department for the building and artwork at the San Francisquito Creek Storm Water Pump Station. Artist Ceevah Sobel will have an exhibit in the Civic Center lobby timed around the dedication of the artwork. The date of the dedication ceremony will be in April on a date tbd.

Next step: This item to return in March to approve funding for a postcard.

## BIKE RACKS

Commissioner DeMarzo shared a list of potential bike rack sites for Palo Alto that she received from Bill Courington, Palo Alto Bike Advisory Board. DeMarzo said that having bike racks that accommodate two bikes makes more sense than having larger bike racks especially when sited within a crowded streetscape. She is exploring a bike rack attachment by Creative Metalworks that converts posts to new bicycle parking spaces that could be specifically designed for Palo Alto. Subcommittee is working on pulling together language from other cities bike rack RFPs in preparation for the Commission to draft a RFP that will ask artists to create artistic bike racks for Palo Alto.

Next step: Staff to set up meeting with Bike Rack subcommittee and Gayle Likens, Transportation Department to discuss budget and possibilities for creative bike racks in Palo Alto.

## CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN PROJECT

Commissioner Sunde reported that the next step for this project is for the subcommittee to meet to discuss project criteria prior to setting up a meeting with CAADA and interested parties from the previous process. Sunde is concerned that current fountain site is unattractive because of the poles, bike lockers, etc. sited behind the fountain site. Sunde commented that Craighead has mentioned in past that there are plans for the City to work on this restructuring this area. Morton reported that Caltrain spent \$3,000,000 recently to rebuild a new tunnel near Sheridan Avenue.

## WEBSITE

Commissioner Usich reported that the subcommittee met and their 1<sup>st</sup> priority is to make edits to the current website. Contact information for current commissioners has been updated and information about the artist series has been added. The subcommittee is working on outlining the site structure. They would like the rotating images on the current site to also be featured on the City website. Craighead said that Anna Weldon designed the look for the Art Center site and the webmaster was able to build the site. Commissioner Usich thinks the City website is very constrained and the subcommittee is beginning to look at the pros and cons of keeping the current website going versus moving over to the City website. Subcommittee is planning on having some visuals or demo ready for the March meeting. Morton

commented that the Commission is not alone in feeling constrained by the City website and that other groups have opted to create their own website.

#### FILAREE

Commissioner Sunde reported that he met with Craighead, Greg Betts and with members of the Midtown Association to discuss moving *Filaree* to Greer Park. There are plans for a CAD drawing to be created that would show *Filaree* at Greer Park. Project will pay for these drawings. Craighead said there is a second public meeting scheduled by Parks and Recreation on March 3 regarding Greer Park.

Commissioner Acebo-Davis believes it might be beneficial to educate the community on the iron patina of the sculpture. A lot of people have trouble with a rust patina. Morton commented that Midtown has a newsletter and they may be agreeable to including information about iron patinas.

#### ARTS PLAN

Commissioner Sunde asked Commissioners to review, highlight or rearrange the content of the Arts Plan before the March meeting. Send input to Katsanes.

Next step: A request for the Commission to approve the Arts Plan will be on the March meeting agenda.

#### MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY

Commissioner Sunde volunteered to join this subcommittee. The Commission discussed with Councilmember Morton their issues regarding Council's November 10, 2008 motion. The Commission felt that when Council voted to shift artist Bruce Beasley from the California Avenue Fountain Project to project artist for Mitchell Park Community Center/Library without allowing the Public Art Commission to meet and discuss the Council's intention they bypassed the Commission's role as stated in the Municipal Code. Morton commented that Council may not have fully understood the issue and the PAC's role. Morton commented that this issue would be a good topic to discuss with council at the upcoming joint meeting. Craighead reported that Beasley has been in contact with the project architect to discuss incorporating artwork into this project. Craighead stated she takes responsibility for moving forward with Beasley as project artist. Commissioner Sunde stated that he believes Beasley is a wonderful artist, but that is a separate issue from the matter of the Commission's authority, and that he had been trying to set up a meeting with the Mayor to review the Council's decision of 11/10/08. Councilmember Morton will set a meeting between Commissioner Sunde, Mayor Drekmeier, and himself to achieve clarity about the November 10<sup>th</sup> motion and the Commission's role as per the Municipal Code.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA – March 19, 2009

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.