

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, April 16, 2009
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

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

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of March 19, 2009 was approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioners reviewed the CIP budget and General Fund Balance.

NEW BUSINESS

CHARLES GINNEVER SCULPTURE – Amy French, Planning Department introduced the presentation team led by Jo Price, Project Manager, Toll Brothers; Melissa Willman, Project Manager, Van Dorn Abed Landscape Architects Inc.; and Douglass B. Aikins, Rutan Attorneys at Law. They are seeking Commission feedback on the relocation of the Charles Ginnever sculpture from Mountain View to Palo Alto on HP property. The sculpture will be sold with the property and the intention is that the future Homeowners Association at this site will be responsible for the sculpture's maintenance in future. The resiting of the sculpture will become a condition of the development agreement. This project was referred by the ARB who have suggested that (1) the orientation of the sculpture be studied, (2) sculpture is more accessible from avenues A & B, and (3) the wall of redwoods be modified for additional sunlight for viewing the sculpture. Commissioners want the Ginnever sculpture to be accessible to public. They would hate to see the sculpture dismantled and subsequently left in storage and forgotten. Commissioner Acebo-Davis queried what the current value of the sculpture is. Aikins commented that the sculpture hasn't been formally appraised but he estimates the worth at approximately \$250,000 plus. Chair Sunde asked Commissioners to take a fresh look at the sculpture in the context of the relocation plan and send their feedback to staff, due within two weeks. This project is scheduled to go back to the Planning Department and City Council for review.

ACTION

YOUTH ART AWARDS

Chair Sunde asked Commissioners to select subcommittee and allocate finds for the 2009 Youth Art Awards. He recommended increasing the award budget from \$500.00 to \$750.00. Commissioners DeMarzo and Usich were appointed by Chair Sunde to serve as the Youth Art Awards subcommittee for this year. Commissioner Acebo-Davis suggested having a display of Youth Art award winners in the Civic Center lobby after the Art Center exhibit closes.

Motion: Move to allocate \$750.00 for Youth Art Awards.

Moved: DeMarzo: Seconded: Coleman. Ayes: Unanimous.

ARTIST DESIGNED BIKE RACKS

Commissioner DeMarzo reviewed the scope of work for bike racks. She asked the Commission to allocate \$2,000.00 for the design fee. The City will own the bike rack design. DeMarzo was acknowledged by the Commission for her work on this project. The Commission reviewed the draft criteria for the RFP and the question of color, and noted the advantage of broadening the list of artists that will receive the RFP.

Motion: To initiate the RFP and approve \$2,000 as the design fee.

Moved: Sunde: Seconded: Usich: Ayes: Unanimous.

NON-ACTION

COLOR OF PALO ALTO

Color of Palo Alto – Commissioner Acebo-Davis reported that Yates is working on The Color of Palo Alto website, layout of color plaids for a book, looking for commercial paint store to talk with him about the paint, and GIS system photo interfacing for the Police Department. Katsanes reported that Yates plans to remove the bus wrap from the façade the 1st week of June.

PUBLIC ART FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK STORM WATER PUMP STATION

Commission discussed plans for the dedication event scheduled for April 30 at 4:00 pm.

BILL BLISS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Katsanes reported that the Commission has received six proposals for the Bill Bliss Memorial Project. She had received a few calls from artists who conveyed concern about installation costs impacting the budget. Chair Sunde noted that there is a vacancy on the subcommittee and Commission DeMarzo was appointed to fill that vacancy.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN PROJECT

Ellen Wyman, Palo Alto, commented that she has been interested in the fountain for awhile. She was very involved in the petition against the Beasley sculpture and collected over a few hundred responses. She would be happier with the current fountain being replaced with a similar fountain because it would cost less. Wyman stated that it would be a good will gesture if the Commission would allow for a simple off the shelf fountain to replace the existing fountain and that it would enhance the Commission's image in the community by letting go of the idea of an artist created fountain at this site. Wyman stated that it goes against the grain of what the public wants, and she asked the Commission if it's worth the fight.

Paul Pitlick, Palo Alto, asked the Commission whether the PAC would return to Council to ask them to amend their direction to the Commission if the consensus of the community is in favor of installing an off-the-shelf fountain on California Avenue.

Commissioner Sunde reported that there is a meeting scheduled on May 12 from 5-6:30 at the Art Center to review the process established by the City Council with respect to an artist designed fountain at California Avenue, and to solicit input from the community on scope of work for the Request for Proposal to artists. Commissioner Richter, chair of the California Avenue fountain subcommittee, will lead this meeting. The direction from Council is that fountain at this site be replaced with an artist designed fountain. Commissioner Richter reported on an email from Bob Morris, Planning Department that the lockers at the train station site are almost entirely City of Palo Alto property. Commissioners would like to explore options for this plaza area in future.

SITING *FILAREE* AT GREER PARK

Commissioner Sunde reported that he participated in a walk through of Greer Park with Linda Craighead, Greg Betts, interim Director, CSD, and Annette Ashton, Midtown Residents Association, and they have identified another potential site for *Filaree* near Amarillo on a knoll. They are all pleased with the new site. Plans for Greer Park have *Filaree* potentially sited in the new Phase IV plan, which has met with

opposition from Midtown Residents Association. Commissioner Sunde asked for another commissioner to join him on this project, and Commissioner Acebo-Davis volunteered. Commissioner Sunde noted that the Amarillo site is very encouraging, but that, in his opinion, it is vital, given the history of *Filaree* and Phase IV, that the Midtown Residents' Association go on record as being in favor of the Amarillo site. He also suggested that the Commission defer any decision for another month and asked that Commissioners personally visit the new potential site at Greer Park.

ARTIST SERIES

Commissioner Acebo-Davis reported that the third artist series will feature artists Jennifer Madden, Joey Piziali and Michal Szabo. She commented that she wanted Greg Brown to participate, but he wasn't available. Commissioner Acebo-Davis recommends Greg Brown for a solo presentation next year. Theme for the May 28th artist series is Art & Site/Sight. Commissioner Acebo-Davis asked that each artist in this next series be paid \$200.00. Commission questioned whether the copyright and release issues that were brought up after the last artist talk were solved. Staff said they weren't but answers were forthcoming from the City Attorney. Mel Van Dusen is asked to film this upcoming event and commissioners would like the issues addressed soon. Commissioner Coleman will follow up with Lunar Design about the postcard template. Commissioner Acebo-Davis volunteered to work on the postcard.

MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION

Staff presented new forms created by Alyssa Erickson for the collection database. Commissioners were pleased with the new forms for the database. Photography of artwork currently in storage at the Art Center will occur during the week of May 11. Antonaccio and Erickson are working together on verifying which artworks still need conditions reports.

PR OUTREACH

Commissioner Coleman commented that the subcommittee is encouraging the use of the identity on all forms of communications. Coleman asked if it is possible to have new stationary created for the Commission with the new logo. She wants to use the logo on response cards and thank you notes. Staff will explore this. Coleman would like the Commission to discuss creating a launch for the identity. Acebo-Davis wants to contact other arts agencies located in Oakland and San Jose, and ask them to share their artist contact lists. An Artist Bank subcommittee was formed: Commissioners Acebo-Davis, DeMarzo and Usich.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION WEBSITE

Commissioner Usich reported that the subcommittee is working on creating an E-news newsletter, adding current events to the website and refreshing the current public art website. She emailed Hasan Dasedmir, HD Projects and he replied that he intends to continue hosting the website. Usich intends that the newsletters be sent out monthly. She requested that staff send her the email list the Commission is currently building. Commissioner Coleman volunteered to join website subcommittee and Chair Sunde appointed her to fill the current vacancy on the subcommittee.

MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY

Commissioner Sunde commented that a joint meeting between the Library Advisory Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Public Art Commission is being planned for sometime in May. One item for discussion will be artwork plans for Mitchell Park and other libraries. A contract with Bruce Beasley for design fees for Mitchell Park is being finalized. Subcommittee plans to meet with Beasley to explore ideas. Commissioner Richter asked to go on record that she does not think the Commission should spend the entire art budget with Beasley. Commissioner Sunde commented that the only time the Commission can acquire a large artwork is through the Art in City Projects. He stated that the Commission may use their existing CIP budget for additional art at libraries and other sites. The Commission discussed the need to create a list of potential sites for public art within Palo Alto and, per the revised Municipal Art Plan, to prioritize the sites. A Site subcommittee was formed: Commissioners Sunde, Usich, and Coleman.

FOLLOW-UP ON JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL

Commissioner Sunde reported that the meeting went well. He commented that it was the second time that the Commission heard from Council members that they would appreciate art being installed in the Council Conference Room. Commissioners discussed hanging artwork on the far back wall. Sunde suggested that the Commission explore installing a metal hanging system that he has seen used successfully. He will report further on a hanging system at the May meeting.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA – May 21, 2009

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sunde adjourned meeting at 9:53 pm.