



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

FINE ART COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2018
4:00pm

OPEN MEETING

Date/Time: January 18, 2018 / 4:02pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Hiller led the Pledge of Allegiance

CIVILITY STATEMENT Chair Smooke read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Vice Chair Rubins, Chair Smooke
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Pam Shinault, Kristin Buhagiar, Patty Acuña, Linda Kyriazi

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Vadim Zanginian spoke to the Commission about an Art Academy. The Commission advised Mr. Zanginian to speak to the Beverly Hills City Council as his question was not under the purview of the Fine Art Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda.

By order of the Chair, the agenda was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Special meeting of November 16, 2017.

MOTION by Kaye, SECONDED by Vahn to approve the Meeting Minutes. (5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
CARRIED:

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

None.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Kusama Update

Vice Chair Rubins

- Vice Chair Rubins distributed notes to the Commission and staff that included information on the amount of repairs that would be needed to the art piece. Time constraints are a concern. The rough estimate is \$500,000 to rebuild the sculpture in bronze. Any replacement in fiberglass is estimated to not last more than 10 years.

Director of Community Services, Nancy Hunt-Coffey

- Informed the Commission that when Kusama representatives visited Los Angeles, staff was informed that the piece in Beverly Hills is not the only fiberglass piece that was having challenges. Staff also learned that their most recent Kusama flower installations are made out of metal. A statement of proposed work would need to be provided to the gallery and Ota Studio representatives to request their approval of new design.
- The warranty with the fabricator, Ironwoods, is good through September 2018.

Commissioner Kaye

- The report provided by Vice Chair Rubins is comprised of his own research and not necessarily, a document the entire Commission agrees upon.
- Asked to consider other spending \$500K on other art options that would not require extreme maintenance rather than recreating the piece in bronze due to the high cost.
- Suggested that the Commission take advantage of the warranty that exists and look into the costs associated with that option – even if the goal is to build new and then deaccession to someone who can display new art in-doors.
- Asked staff if there is any legal recourse against Kusama and/or the gallery with regards to the design and plans for the Kusama piece. Staff advised that the City Attorney could review the Kusama agreement.

Director of Community Services, Nancy Hunt-Coffey

- Reminded the Commission of the liaison meeting with the City Council representatives in early December. At that meeting, the direction from the Council liaisons was to look at metal options for the Kusama. It is suggested to meet with the liaisons again.

The Commission agreed to move forward with suggested options.

- Continue to confirm pricing of manufacturing in bronze.
- Confirm to Ironwood that we want to take advantage of warranty and know the costs and plans associated with that.
- Consult City Attorney/Art Attorney regarding recourse to Kusama Studios and gallery for design flaws of original work.

NEW BUSINESS /PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Walton Ford Art Loan Proposal By Gagosian Gallery

Recreation Services Manager, Kristin Buhagiar, informed the Commission on the potential art loan of one of the works from an exhibition titled, *Walton Ford: Calafia*. The piece is a monumental watercolor called *La Madre, 2017* featuring the California Grizzly Bear.

Commissioner Hiller informed the Commission that she and Commissioner Vahn reviewed the piece. They agreed that Mr. Ford more than meets the Commission's criteria. Location of the piece is still under consideration because of the size and weight.

MOTION by Kaye, SECONDED by Vahn: move to accept this piece of art and thank the Gagosian Gallery for their generous offer. (5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PASSED:

PROJECT UPDATES, STATUS REPORTS, STAFF REPORTS

4. Director's Report

- Information only items:

A. Fine Art Fund Report

Information provided in packet.

B. Tom Friedman Update

The final agreement was signed with the gallery and it is on the City Council Formal Session Agenda for Monday, January 22, 2018. There is a 9-month fabrication period.

C. Preliminary Update on Cultural Arts

Staff will be looking at ways to update the Fine Art Ordinance so a description of Cultural Arts will be included. Staff will meet with the City Manager for further direction.

D. Jose Davila Update

The pieces arrived, which included some transit chipping and graffiti on them, which is encouraged by the artist. There were some complications with the pieces not connecting but resting on each other, therefore causing a concern for safety. The representative from the gallery is checking with the artist to approve the changed configuration. Upon finalization, the Commission requested a press release be distributed to the community informing them about the artwork.

E. Fletcher Benton Status Report

The agreement is in the final stages and the City Engineer is designing the base. The piece is currently with the vendor for restoration and repainting.

F. North Santa Monica Blvd. Reconstruction Project

Information Only.

G. Bove Update

At last month's liaison meeting, the City Council liaisons confirmed their request for raising the piece. The Commission agreed to ask Rosa for recommendations on height and staff to provide drawings for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

5. Chair's Report

A. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

The Mayor's Cabinet meetings are now recorded and can be viewed in the City's website at:

www.beverlyhills.org/citygovernment/mayorandcouncilmembers/mayorscabinetmeetings/

B. Ad Hoc Committees

- Education Liaison (Rubins, Vahn)
Vice Chair Rubins informed the Commission on a meeting being held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 regarding Beverly Hills Art Departments, which he will be attending.
- Recreation and Parks Commission Liaisons (Hiller, Kaye)
- Fine Art Program Development (Hiller, Smooke)
- Donations and Loaned Art (Hiller, Vahn)
- Big Picture Project (Kaye, Smooke)
- Web Submission for Priority Exercise (Hiller, Rubins)
- Burton Way Median (Rubins, Hiller) - *Currently on hold*
- Location of Dávila artwork (Hiller, Vahn)
- Fletcher Benton installation on Burton Way (Smooke, Vahn)
- Cultural Arts Commission options (Rubins, Kaye)

C. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.

- Commissioner Kaye noticed the lighting on the Kusama is not working at night.
- Is the decomposed granite gone around the Tony Smith Playground piece of art?
- Staff will update both the Ad Hoc Committee and the Priority List.
- Time to consider the Commissions next purchase. Staff to provide list for next month's agenda.

6. Priority Setting

- Staff will update the list.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

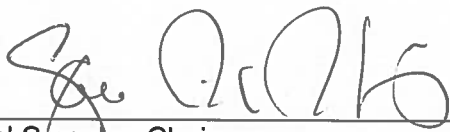
7. FAC Upcoming Meetings

Reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: January 18, 2018 / 5:17pm

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 15th day of March 2018.



Michael Smooke, Chairperson For Chair Smooke