



Room 280-A
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
MINUTES

FINE ART COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
December 17, 2013
1:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Kaye, Smooke, Potter, Vice Chair Pressman, Chair Chalom

Absent: None

Staff: N. Hunt-Coffey, B. Meyerowitz, P. Acuna, L. Foraker

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Marshall Peck presented a playground slide by artist Tom Otterness as a potential purchase for Roxbury Public Park; the piece is evocative of the Tin Man from the Wizard of OZ, and made out of bronze. Mr. Peck is hoping the FAC can give their blessing to this project. The price is 2 million. There are smaller versions of this piece, which one would assume, would also have a lesser price tag. Solutions to safety issues were built into the project by the artist, though it needs to be placed somewhere shady to mitigate the surface temperature getting too hot when in direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. The Roxbury Park renovation is a month from public engagement, so the park furniture purchases are complete. Several Commissioners wondered, given the size, where in the City can this work be installed? Mr. Peck will contact the installation site in New York City to inquire as to how they deal with the heat, and other issues.

2. DISCUSSION OF THE INVERTED BARRIER TO PROTECT KUSAMA'S HYMN OF LIFE

Due to the mandate from Councilmember Gold, the Fine Art Commission has been asked to put their solution to protect the Kusama on a fast track to present a finalized plan to City Council in January, or February, at the latest. Commissioner Kaye reported on the most recent discussion in the Recreation and Park meeting. The Recreation and Park Commissioners have unanimously voted to recommend the Inverted Barrier, including the post and cord solution presented by Robbie Anderson, current Chair of the R&P.

Currently there are slightly more than 8' from the edge of the sculpture to the outer edge of the mow curb. There is an 18" border closest to the piece to provide space for the landmine light fixtures, which will be retained in the new design. The depth of the inverted barrier can be no more than 30". The present design proposal calls for a keystone wall, interlocking pieces surrounding the piece from top to bottom. Carissa, which has some thorny qualities, has been recommended for the shrubbery.

The bids staff has received are divergent enough to warrant more examination. Staff is suggesting that today the Commission approve the expense of drawings by the landscape architect, at which point the project can go out to bid, which is the only way an accurate budget will be determined. Until then all is speculation. Commissioners wanted to know if R&P will help bear the burden of the \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Commissioner Smooke feels the keystone wall is in conflict with the work itself; it should be a smooth finish, or the ideal would be to create a detail on a smooth finish that is complimentary to the detail on the mosaic base of the sculpture. She acknowledged that extra detail will cost money.

Richard Zale Rubin requested to have information about signage...staff is researching what kind of language can be used, from a legal standpoint, when creating strongly worded signage. Is there alternative to finding out the cost to this solution other than paying the \$15,000? Isn't the information at hand enough to get a ball park figure that would pinpoint the proposed budget more clearly? Is it really necessary to get detailed plans to provide more information? Staff pointed out that some of the information arrived at through the plans will be the engineering aspects of the project, and none of the information we currently have will provide the potential contractors with the geological details needed to make a sound decision. A responsible contractor will be reluctant to finalize a bid based on the limited information provided by the graphic that we have.

Commissioner Kaye wanted to know why other Commissioners are against the cord option. It was pointed out that the post and cord option is a liability issue; it's too low to the ground and will likely cause someone to trip. If the post and cord option is raised high enough to safeguard against anyone tripping, say at 4 feet high, then it becomes exactly like the original option put forth by the Fine Art Commission and rejected by the Council Liaison. If the solution is presented to Council, Commissioner Kaye requests that all of the other Commissioners attend the Council meeting to explain the history of what led the Commission to this solution and why it is so important to reach consensus and move forward on a plan to protect this valuable piece of art.

MOTION:

Vice Chair Pressman moved to support in concept the design of the inverted barrier, without cords and posts, to protect Kusama's Hymn of Life. If the concept is acceptable to the City Council, the Fine Art Commission thereby approves authorization to secure architectural renderings, enabling staff to send the project out to bid. Commissioner Smooke seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioners Kaye, Potter, Chair Chalom

NOES: none

3. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE FINE ART ORDINANCE

The Commissioners had no substantive suggestions for changing the document. Any punctuation and spelling changes to be made will be sent to staff to incorporate later. Staff will inquire with City Attorney's office as to their progress with the most recent version. Once the CA's office has gone over it with a fine tooth comb, it will go to the City Council Liaison, then to full Council for final approval.

4. REPORT BY FINE ART COMMISSION STAFF LIAISON (Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Brad Meyerowitz, Patty Acuna, Lois Foraker)

A. Fund balance is reporting at \$878,288.21

The Chamber Visitor's Bureau is to honor Chinese New Year, Feb 8th with a kick off celebration at The Wallis. 2014 will be the Year of the Horse. A Deborah Butterfield sculpture will be on display at 2 Rodeo at Deighton and Rodeo in honor of the horse. Because this is being installed on private property, this is an informational item only. The Commission is not required to approve this event, using the criteria of Fine Art Ordinance. Nor does this project need the approval of the City Risk Management team. Insurance for this installation will be their responsibility. Ms. Butterfield's horses are constructed of bronze pieces that look like driftwood, artfully arranged to emerge as a horse.

Commissioner Pressman provided an update on progress of Carol Bove conversation with gallery, etc.

A meeting with Recreation and Park Liaison to the Fine Art Commission after the first of the year will be scheduled to present to their Liaison the FAC recommendation of the location in the Northeast quadrant (area under the trees near Park Way and Beverly) for the installation of Carol Bove's artwork inspired by her New York installation, *Prudence*.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, with the consent of the Commission, Chair Chalom adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes ammended and approved:

January 16, 2014

Fiona Chalom, Ph.D., Chair