



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

FINE ART COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
January 31, 2104
11:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 A.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

1. JURISDICTION BETWEEN THE FAC AND R&P AS IT PERTAINS TO ART IN PARKS

Councilmember Gold is working with the Fine Art and the Recreation and Parks Commissions clarifying the roles and procedures of each as they pertain to protecting Fine Art in the City parks. He has asked that the discussion of this issue be put before the City Council Study Session on February 18th. The task for the Fine Art Commission today is to craft a statement as to how the existing documents, namely the City's Administrative Regulations and the Municipal Code, should be changed or modified, or not, to better clarify the jurisdiction between the two Commissions. Staff pointed out that these existing documents, which are formally accepted City documents of record, are meant to guide the activities of both the Fine Art and the Recreation and Parks Commissions. If any changes are to be made to these documents of record, the requests for those changes will be put forward to the Council at the February 18th Study Session. Staff is recommending that the Commission's suggestions be put forth in a cover letter to the Council for their consideration.

The Fine Art Commission supports and approves of the current wording of the Municipal Code and Administrative Regulations, as they pertain to the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the workings of the Fine Art Commission but would add one change. There are currently 5 areas the Fine Art Commission is tasked to regulate; the Commission proposes the addition of a 6th, that of maintenance and protection of the artwork.

If all indications prove out, at the February 18th meeting, a Representative from Recreation and Parks will request that the Administrative Regulations be changed to give some kind of veto power over artwork that they deem inappropriate for installation in City Parks; if so, Commissioner Kaye urges the Fine Art Commissioners to speak against any such power being granted to the Recreation and Parks Commissioners. Commissioner Smooke felt it important to strongly state that the wording of City documents not be changed to allow any Commission other than the Fine

Art Commission to determine whether a piece of art being proposed is suitable for acquisition. Commissioner Kaye also suggested it be stated that no Commission put themselves into the role of the City's professional risk management staff.

2. DISCUSSION OF POST AND CORD OPTION TO PROTECT THE KUSAMA

Staff presented an overview of where in the effort to protect the Kusama we currently find ourselves. The inverted barrier was presented for consideration to City Council Study session having been endorsed by both the Fine Art and Recreation & Parks Commissions, with the latter requesting the addition of a 1' to 1 & 1/2' post and cord system around the piece. Direction was given by the Council for the FAC to return to the post and cord option. This system was approved by the Fine Art Commission more than 1 year ago, but could not get support from the Recreation and Parks Commission. For safety issues, Risk Management team requests that the system be 36" to 40" high, with a minimum of 3 cables. A minimum of 3/8" thick cables is best. The posts and cables can be of the same color, but Risk Management is recommending that they be at least noticeable so people don't run into them; black and Stainless steel are acceptable. The Council does not like the system with 5 levels of cable. The posts of the fencing system need to provide enough distance from the sculpture to prevent admirers from reaching over the cable to touch it. Need to have enough posts to follow the footprint of the existing curb to maintain the distance from the sculpture. Commissioner Smooke would recommend getting rid of the plantings around the piece; Vice Chair Pressman recommends decomposed granite rather than vegetation. The requisite number of posts is to be determined by a professional. Commissioner Kaye suggested having rods constructed that matches the curve of the outside curb to maintain at all times the correct distance. Staff presented the Commission with the 3/8" cable product that was part of the original system approved of by the Fine Art Commission in 2012. It is a product that can bend to accommodate the irregular footprint of the mow curb surrounding the piece.

Robbie Anderson, resident and a Recreation and Parks Commissioner, thanked the Fine Art Commissioners for doing their homework. He is pleased everything is headed in the right direction. He is of the opinion that ice plants would be better than decomposed granite since there is a staining element caused by the plants on people's clothing that would be a deterrent. Access to the piece, when necessary would be provided by a series of pallets placed over the ice plants allowing the workers to navigate the vegetation. He is also suggesting that international signage warning people off the artwork be installed at this same access point, as well as a plaque fully describing the artwork. He is looking forward to working together on this project. He feels that decomposed granite is not a good solution; people will put their children on such a surface with no compunction. He is in favor of whatever posts be used to be dark green in color to match all the other dark green accents in the City Parks, creating uniformity. He wanted to remind the Fine Art Commission that Mia Lehrer the one in charge of design elements in the parks. He recommends that while the current temporary fencing is up, plant the plants that would take care of the problem now, letting them grow and fill out so that when the permanent solution is installed, the barrier created by plants is fully up to the task required.

Staff reminded the Commission, due to the space demands of the Art Show, that

the current foot print of the mow curb be maintained. The Commission landed in favor of decomposed granite around the piece.

3. UPDATE ON CAROL BOVE'S POWDER COATED STEEL GLYPH

Recreation and Park Commission voted 3-2 to accept placement of the piece in the proposed spot; there was a subsequent clarification of the vote in that they voted for the location chosen for the placement but not whether the artwork was appropriate for placement in the park. It is the intention of the Recreation and Park Commission to withhold approval for the appropriateness of the piece until they can see a rendering, or artist's concept of the work.

For the record, Chair Chalom wanted to state that it is not the job of the Recreation and Park to approve, or not approve, the artwork itself, just whether they approve of the site chosen for placement of any piece of art.

Staff suggested that perhaps clarification of the expectation of the R&P Commission will be defined in clearer terms on January 18th.

Commissioner Kaye believes that the FAC should feel very comfortable about sharing the images of any rendering that the artist produces with the Recreation and Parks Commission. They have been presented with the existing documentation associated with the potential acquisition, but a rendering of the specific piece to come to Beverly Hills won't be available until the Commission commits \$20,000 toward a non-refundable fee to the artist for her work in creating a site-specific piece for the suggested location. Normal next step would be to take the proposed acquisition to the City Council Liaison, since the approval of the Fine Art Commission has been secured, and the Recreation and Park Commission has voted in favor of the proposed site.

Commissioner Potter observed, that since Chair Chalom has withdrawn support for the piece and has gone on record as such, isn't there a problem in going forward to the City Council liaison with a piece that is not supported by the Chair? Staff pointed out that the record shows the piece has been unanimously approved by the Fine Art Commission in a formal vote. Staff also pointed out that most likely by the time this proposal is taken to the City Council Liaison, the Chair position will have transitioned from Chair Chalom to Vice Chair Pressman, making Commissioner Potter the new Vice Chair, thereby rendering everyone's concern a moot point.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, with the consent of the Commission, Chair Chalom adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes amended and approved:

February 20, 2014

Fiona Chalom, Ph.D., Chair