



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

MINUTES

FINE ART COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2015
4:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Smooke, Hiller, Kaye, Vice Chair Potter, and Chair Pressman

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

1. COMMISSION MINUTES

The Minutes of December 18, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved as amended.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

none

2. REPORT BY FINE ART COMMISSION STAFF (Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Patty Acuna, and Lois Foraker)

- A. Fine Art Fund is reported at \$ 2,510,171.00
- B. Carol Bove's Gallery reported that the piece weighs 1250 lbs. and they clarified the fabricator will not be a hands on participant during the installation. He will observe and make suggestions. The Gallery will send several photographs of the piece as it's being worked on.
- C. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes are in the packet.
- D. The 2nd public reading of the proposed Fine Art Ordinance was read on January 6, approved by City Council and will be adopted into the Municipal Code by February 6, 2015, marking the culmination of 5 years of work by the Fine Art Commission.
- E. The Commission continues to be focused on the Kusama fencing, Developer chosen FAO Art, the Bove acquisition, and decomposed granite around artwork issues. Priorities will be re-examined at one of the upcoming meetings.

- F. The Commission restructuring will be adapted in early February; City Attorney Lolly Enriquez will attend the February 19 FAC meeting to discuss the restructuring as well as provide a tutorial on the Brown Act for newly seated Commissioners.
- G. The proposed enhancement of Hunter and Hounds into a more pronounced and formal War Memorial will be presented to City Council on February 3, or 17.
- H. There has been movement on a substantial number of the properties where public art pieces have been removed, resulting in these properties being out of compliance with City Code. Representatives of 350 S. Beverly will present their ideas to staff for preliminary guidance. 440 N. Rodeo had 3 canvases, at least 2 of which are damaged; they are considering restoration. 2 Rodeo had 2 columns removed, created by Italian sisters. This issue is in progress as well. The Beverly Hills Hotel is examining an appropriate course of action.

Other Items

CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

3. SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER, MICHAEL SMOOKE

City Clerk, Byron Pope, administered the oath to Michael Smooke, performing his first duty as a fully credentialed Fine Art Commissioner, after which he was officially seated at the dais. His wife, Terri Smooke, herself a former Fine Art Commissioner, and granddaughter, Eva, were there to witness the swearing in.

4. PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE COUPS DE PINCEAU (BRUSHSTROKES) BY ROY LICHTENSTEIN AT THE WALLIS

Diane Rosenstein, representing the The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation and Jerry Magnin, Chairman of the Board of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presented to the Fine Art Commission the concept that the FAC consider the possibility of purchasing Lichtenstein's *Coups de Pinceau (Brushstrokes)* that is currently installed at the corner of Little Santa Monica and Crescent Drive at the SE rear corner of the Center. The Foundation has granted Ms. Rosenstein permission to present the City very favorable terms in the acquisition of this piece; the Foundation believes the piece is perfectly sited in its present location and is very willing to negotiate extremely favorable terms to see it remain in its present location.

The Annenberg currently has the piece on loan for 3 years with an annual right to renew the loan. While the value of the art was never in doubt, nor the credentials of the artist, the concern of the Commission always came back to the price of the piece, the market value of which is in the vicinity of 6 million dollars. They felt that even if the Foundation dropped the price an unheard of 50%, the 3 million price tag would remain out of reach. They also felt that to commit in 2015 that future Commissions would pay off a debt entered into by this current Commission would be grossly unfair to the energies of future civic volunteers.

MOTION: Commissioner Hiller proposed that the Fine Art Commission not pursue the purchase of the Roy Lichtenstein sculpture of the fiscal obligation it represents. Vice Chair Potter seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioner Hiller, Commissioner Chalom, Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter and Chair Pressman.

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

5. REPORT ON COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

On January 14, Chair Pressman, Vice Chair Potter and staff met with Mayor Bosse and Vice Mayor Gold and Staff to discuss several items: the proposed acquisition of William Kentridge's *World on Its Hind Legs*; the proposed fencing design to protect Kusama's *Hymn of Life*; the proposed loan of Richard Serra's TWINS; and the proposed donation from the Estate of Carol Wiseman of a piece by Woods Davy. Chair Pressman and Vice Chair Potter presented the points made by the Liaison, the questions and requests for more information. Vice Mayor Gold suggested that the Commission consider having an appraisal done on the entire collection of City-owned public art pieces. Mayor Bosse commented it was the most exciting group of issues to be brought for discussion by the Fine Art Commission and she is looking forward to the progress of these projects.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING FENCING AROUND THE KUSAMA

During the discussion Mr. Lavezzo had with Building and Safety regarding the space between horizontal cables to satisfy the safety element, it was determined by the permitting office that Mr. Lavezzo would need to bring in an engineer to sign off on the footings of the individual arms of his railing design. Current contract with designer will be expanded to an additional \$3,815 to cover the engineering aspect.

MOTION: Vice Chair Potter moved to appropriate a not to exceed \$4,300 funds for the necessary engineering assessment of the footings for the fence, as well as the aerial rendering of the Kusama fencing design project. Commissioner Kaye seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioner Hiller, Commissioner Chalom, Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter and Chair Pressman.

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

7. PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR CENTER OBELISK

Commissioner Hiller restated her position on the Burton Way location being a solid choice; she provided historical perspective on the relevance of obelisks in marking boundaries. The location she prefers marks the boundary between Beverly Hills and Los Angeles. City Staff visited the new Roxbury Community Center; in front of the Public Works Building on Foothill, in the planter; in Maltz Park; and at the entrance to Roxbury Park, where *Mah Jong* was formerly installed taking photos in each spot, photo shopping in the obelisk to give a somewhat realistic version of what the piece would look like in that spot. It was decided to seriously consider the planter area in front of Public Works on Foothill, and the entrance to Roxbury Park along Olympic Blvd. as the 2 most favored locations. More information will be provided at one of our future meetings.

8. DECOMPOSED GRANITE AROUND ART PIECES

Staff and representatives of TruGreenmet at *Conversation* in Roxbury Park, in back of the Center. They compacted the decomposed granite and applied the bonding material.

It was decided to keep the caution tape up for 1 full week before allowing the public access to the area to make sure we allow the stabilizing agent a long time to set. We will further report on the outcome of the project at the February FAC meeting.

9. POSSIBLE USE OF TERRY O'NEIL PHOTOS TO SATISFY ART REQUIREMENT FOR BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

The Beverly Hills Hotel had purchased a large format photograph by celebrity photographer, Terry O'Neill, and wanted to know if Mr. O'Neill's photography would meet the criteria put forth in the Ordinance, as they would like to purchase more by Mr. O'Neill for the Hotel to satisfy their obligation, if possible. There was much discussion and examination of what constitutes fine art in photography.

MOTION: Commissioner Hiller moved to encourage the Beverly Hills Hotel not to pursue Terry O'Neil photographs because he does not meet the qualifications for the Fine Art Ordinance. Vice Chair Potter seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioner Hiller, Commissioner Chalom, Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter and Chair Pressman.

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

10. ANCILLIARY COSTS AND NEXT STEPS WITH WILLIAM KENTRIDGE PIECE, WORLD ON ITS HIND LEGS

The 2-person construction crew from the Gallery in South Africa to assemble the piece, should the City acquire it, will cost about \$17,000, all costs included. This is very common practice. It's possible to do the job with one person from the Studio; that will be finalized later. It was recommended that the contingency fee be expanded to cover unforeseen circumstances; it is easier to return unused money to the General Fund than to return to City Council to request more.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Brad Howe will be speaking on Sunday, January 25, 12:00 pm in City Hall on "Why Public Art? An Artist's Perspective."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted

February 19, 2015



Sandy Pressman, Chair