



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

MINUTES

FINE ART COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2014
4:00 PM

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

1. COMMISSION MINUTES

The Minutes of November 20, 2014 Regular Meeting and Special 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 \$ 2,381,021
- B. Work on IO has begun; the contract states they have 6 months from receipt of the first installment to complete the piece and deliver it to the City. The artist's representatives have sent word they want the fabricator to install the piece.
- C. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes are in the packet.
- D. Update on Joan Brown's Center Obelisk
- E. Staff thanked Chair Pressman, Commissioners Kaye and Hiller for attending the Council Meeting where the Ordinance was discussed and approved; after all the discussion, there were no changes made to the Ordinance. The next step is the 2nd, and final, reading, at the January 6 Council Meeting after which it will be incorporated into the Municipal Code.

- F. Priorities continue to be Kusama fencing; developer chosen art; the Bove acquisition; and decomposed granite issues.
- G. The Council has not adopted the provisions of the restructuring.

Other Items

CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

3. PROPOSED LOAN BY RICHARD SERRA TWINS

Jeremy Schockley, representing the Gagolian Gallery, presented the potential loan of Richard Serra's TWINS, a sculpture consisting of 2 Cor-Ten steel elongated triangles, when installed creates a dynamic play of angles and lines.

This piece has been in San Francisco for some time. Mr. Schockley created a photo shopped example of the piece on Santa Monica; the artist has allowed the pieces to come together more closely to avoid a blind spot as drivers come up to Santa Monica along Crescent from a southerly direction. Each piece is 9000 lbs. and the project has been vetted and approved by the engineers and risk management. The entire installation process would require a 1-day prep and a 1-day install. The cement pads supporting the piece are underground. The piece is meant to be outside. Chair Pressman asked if the piece could remain installed longer than the 4-6 months if desired. Mr. Schockley said that could be possibly be arranged. Staff verified that all costs of moving, installing, insuring, and lighting the installation would be borne by the Gallery, and that there is no security system to protect the piece at the proposed location. There are Arts of Palm pieces in the same general area and their installation pads will be removed soon, as the end of 2014 was the target date by which to remove them.

MOTION: Vice Chair Potter moved to accept this loan of Richard Serra TWINS, to be installed in front of City Hall. Commissioner Hiller seconded the motion.

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

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

4. UPDTE ON COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING LA CIENEGA COMMUNITY CENTER

Approximately 50 residents attended the first Community Meeting on December 10 to discuss the possible scope of the project around the remodeling of the Center. The feedback was active and valuable. The Community Center has issues, as well as some aspects of the playground. The concept of how involved the Fine Art Commission might be at the very beginning of this project to incorporate artwork into the design phase was discussed. This will be a community driven process, not staff driven. There is a website on which people can present ideas, and members of the Commission are encouraged to post their ideas for potential art installations on this site.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING FENCING AROUND THE KUSAMA

At the previous Fine Art Commission meeting, the Commission stated their preference for the design by Mr. Lavezzo featuring the arms extending away from the sculpture, creating a barrier that is vertical as well as horizontal. Chair Pressman, Commissioner Hiller, Chair Rosoff and Commissioner Gersh from the Recreation and Park

Commission, along with City Staff, met with the designer on site for a demonstration showing the mockup of the fence arms and cable. It was decided to raise the height of the arms to 34 inches, alter the color of the arms and provide 5' between the arms. The space between each level of cabling has yet to be determined. This option was presented to the full Recreation and Park Commission and they have indicated support for the design with the above mentioned changes. There would be a service gate created at the back in order to gain access to the inside for cleaning and repairs.

6. PROPOSAL FOR VETERAN'S WAR MEMORIAL CONFIGURATION

As previously discussed, there is a citizen driven initiative of creating a War Memorial involving the *Hunter & Hounds* sculpture. The footprint of the existing presentation would remain almost the same. The 5 branches of each service would have a seal, along with the correlative creed of that branch of service, on the limestone border surrounding the newly constructed planter. There would be benches surrounding the piece for people to sit. The sculpture itself would be raised to a more visible height. The group of citizens has a donor who will contribute \$400,000 to this effort. The Commission will continue to maintain the sculpture itself, into the future. An opinion from an engineering standpoint is a separate issue; can the piece withstand the removal from its present site prior to being raised. This configuration may solve the issue of water being splashed back onto the sculpture as well. Staff pointed out that when work is done in a park to enhance the presentation of a piece in the City's collection, new technology is employed to minimize the need for water to be a threat to an installation. This transformation would be the time to integrate the technology into the new design. The Commission looks very favorably on this project as presented and looks forward to more details as they come into focus.

7. PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR WOODS DAVEY DONATION, CENTER OBELISK, AND WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

Chair Pressman presented a planter area in Coldwater Park as the potential home for the Woods Davey piece in the section of the park where the track is. The planter area is filled with native grasses. The piece would be visible from much of the track where people walk or run. Directly across the street on the corner is a bed with a natural large rock where it would also look good, but that area is adjacent to the playground area where the children could potentially see the Woods Davey piece as a climbing opportunity which would ultimately weaken the support system of the sculpture.

Several locations for the Obelisk were presented;

1) Burton Way median at Oakhurst, a narrow strip of land that marks the end of Los Angeles, and the beginning of Beverly Hills. The Burton Way location is a gateway location and Commissioner Chalom feels the piece is not a gateway piece.

2) Santa Monica Blvd, in the planter in back of back of the Police Sign. Commissioner Hiller feels the Police planter location is too busy.

3) Commissioner Kaye suggested some locations in Roxbury Park, but without photos to approximate the size of the piece, no one could tell if they would be appropriately placed there. Staff will approximate the size of the piece in several locations to better consider these locations.

No recommendations as to the site for Joan Brown's *Center Obelisk* were decided upon.

Burton Way, on the block with *Sisyphus*, is the only location that has been proposed for the William Kentridge piece, *World on It's Hind Legs*.

MOTION: Vice Chair Potter moved that the Woods Davey proposed donation be located in Coldwater Park area near to the track in the planter designated by Chair Pressman as an appropriate space for this installation. Commissioner Chalom seconded the motion.

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

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

MOTION: Commissioner Hiller recommended the proposal acquisition of William Kentridge's *World On Its Hind Legs* be installed on Burton Way, across from the Courthouse, in the same block as *Sisyphus*, as presented at the November 20 Commission Meeting. Vice Chair Potter seconded the motion.

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

NOES: None

CARRIED: 5/0

8. **MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR DEVELOPER OWNED ART**

The Tony Smith piece has been reinstalled.

The owners of 440 No Rodeo are exploring avenues to restore the pieces that were damaged.

The Beverly Hills Hotel staff has been in communication with City Staff; they have recently purchased a large photo by Terry O'Neill and are very interested in purchasing more for the Hotel and would like to know if the Commission feels this photographer's iconic body of work would meet the criteria of the Ordinance. Does Mr. O'Neill satisfy the criteria? Commissioner Hiller will research whether or not Mr. O'Neill's work satisfies the Ordinance.

Representatives of Spago will be bringing forth a piece to replace the Pat Lewis piece, *Garden of Dreams*, which was removed during their renovation, thereby incurring an additional obligation.

Staff of 2 Rodeo has been less responsive with regard to the 2 columns that have been removed from the premises in violation of the Ordinance. A letter will be sent.

Beverly Drive is out of compliance but that issue is with Code Enforcement; we are waiting word from Code Enforcement with regard to the situation.

Commissioner Hiller remarked, in relation to the 440 Rodeo situation, if the paintings are restored, where will they put them? The pieces are huge and oversized for the lobby of the building. Their first step is to see if they are salvageable.

9. **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONER, FIONA CHALOM**

The Commission and City Staff took this time to say good-bye to Fiona Chalom, who selflessly gave of her time to the residents of Beverly Hills as she helped guide decisions of the Fine Art Commission over the years. Fiona thanked her fellow Commissioners, Councilmember Krasne for helping to appoint her as a Commissioner, City Staff for all their help and support over the years, and to Chair Pressman for all their co-efforts over the years. She is sure to miss working with the Commission, but is hoping to find another opportunity to contribute to the Community in a meaningful way. Councilmember Krasne

thanked Commissioner Chalom for her joy and her intelligence and her service and presented her with a plaque and a gift from the City.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted

January 15, 2015

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Pressman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sandy Pressman, Chair