



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

SYNOPSIS

FINE ART COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2014
4:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter, Chair Pressman

Absent: Commissioners Hiller, Chalom

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

1. COMMISSION MINUTES

The Minutes of September 18, 2014 Special Meeting were approved as amended.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Chair Pressman introduced Alan and Marti Palmer, filmmakers, who have been hired to create nine 8-minute films about life in Beverly Hills, in celebration of the Centennial activities, one of which will focus solely on the visual arts, highlighting the Public Art Collection. The Palmers plan to interview many people in connection with the Fine Art Commission, capture lots of visuals, and hopefully include some teaching moments about what goes into a Fine Art Collection, such as repair work being done on Joan Brown's *Center Obelisk*, and the fabrication process of Carol Bove's *IO*, the recently approved acquisition.

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

- A. Fine Art Fund is reported at \$ 2,325,613.00
- B. The purchase of *IO* by Carol Bove was unanimously approved by City Council. Next steps will be to proceed with the paperwork for payment schedule to be set up, and to begin to get bids for the cement pad on which the sculpture will sit.
- C. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Minutes are in the packet.
- D. Rosa's team did the sandblasting of the inner structure on 9-23; repairs have been completed and the difference is amazing. The Engineering

report is due soon, and will be presented to the Commission as soon as it is presented to staff. Staff showed photos of the repairs.

- E. Peter Lancz, son of Paul Lancz, artist of *Tenderness*, requested to take this proposed acquisition directly to City Council, bypassing the approval of the Fine Art Commission, which is a right afforded him by the Municipal Code. Prior to a hearing by the full City Council, it is custom to pre-qualify Council support by presenting to City Council Liaison and Fine Art Commission Liaison, which was done on October 8. The Council Liaison upheld the Fine Art Commission's decision to deny the acquisition due to the artwork not meeting the criteria set forth in the Fine Art Ordinance. Mr. Lancz pulled his request to present to Council.
- F. The discussion surrounding a potential War Memorial for local service men and women being created around Hunter & Hounds sculpture in Beverly Gardens Park is still in the talking stages. When details are more specific, more will be presented to the Commission.
- G. Sprinkler back splash on *Spiral of Life* has been solved, while *Sisyphus* continues to be problematic since the sculpture sits fully on grass all around it, with no grass free border. While not immune to water marks, *Sisyphus* seems to somehow camouflage them, probably due to the bright color.

- **Other Items**

CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

3. INSURANCE FOR CITY-OWNED ART PIECES

Risk Manager, Karl Kirkman, presented an overview of the City's blanket insurance policy and how it pertains to the City owned artwork. The City has a blanket 2 million dollar policy with a \$20,000 deductible that applies per occurrence and per aggregate. The City is going to consider raising the policy coverage next year. This insurance is attached to property coverage in the City budget and it is not funded by the Fine Art Commission. Commissioner Kaye inquired if the City owns art that exceeds this amount in value. Brad Meyerowitz informed the commission that few years ago Sotheby's did an appraisal pro-bono several of our art pieces and at the time none of the art pieces were close to the 2 million dollar value. The City is going to consider raising the policy coverage next year. Chair Pressman suggested performing another appraisal closer to the time of acquiring the new policy.

4. ARTISTS OF INTEREST FROM THE PRIORITY EXERCISE

Vice Chair Potter presented information to answer questions pertaining to the piece by artist William Kentridge that arose at the last Fine Art Commission meeting. She presented the dimensions of the base, what materials are used in which part of the sculpture, the name of the sculpture, the approximate price, and what the Gallery is willing to do to ensure the edges pass muster with Risk Management. Mr. Kirkman felt that from a Risk Management perspective, his previous concerns had been taken care of, and felt the piece was safe enough for installation in a public environment. The name of the piece is *World On Its Hind Legs*. Chair Pressman suggested gathering information regarding the lighting and weigh of this piece to take into consideration.

5. FINE ART COMMISSION PRIORITIES

Commissioner Kaye wanted to focus on establishing priorities for the Fine Art Commission. All Commissioners present agreed that the Kusama Fencing, Developer Chosen Missing Art project, the Bove acquisition, and the decomposed granite issues were the most pressing. Vice Chair Potter suggested that rather than fix this list of tasks as being the only issues being worked on, that we are more fluid in our approach, allowing for others as well, if the need and time arise.

6. DECOMPOSED GRANITE AROUND ART PIECES

The landscaping company that installed the decomposed granite has, reportedly, treated multiple decomposed granite borders with the sealant that will prevent the material from being loose enough for kids to use as a sandbox, distributing the grainy material all over the bases of art installations and causing an unsightly mess. It was suggested that more of the sealant be introduced to the decomposed granite to get more control over the material. It was also suggested that Commissioner do a little research with galleries and museums to see if there is an industry standard material, or product, to keep decomposed granite more inert. Staff recommended having a representative of True Green to come and do an actual treatment with the sealing product in one of the art sites. Chair Pressman agreed that one of the Commissioners will join for the demonstration and ask questions regarding the inconsistency of the bonding agent that was applied at the different sites.

7. DISCUSSION OF ROSA LOWINGER AND ASSOCIATES CONTRACT

The current contract with Rosa Lowinger runs from 7-1-14 through 6-30-15 which includes maintenance and treatment of 17 city-owned art pieces with the exception of the Millard Sheets mural. It includes a provision for \$15,000 for *Center Obelisk*. The restoration contract with the firm is separate from this maintenance agreement. Commissioner Kaye asked how many times a year is Rosa's team contracted to work on the collection. Should we hire the company more often to blow the leaves off the artwork to make it more presentable? Do we need to increase the number of maintenance hours? His fellow Commissioners pointed out this is not a function of the Fine Art Commission, it is a function of the Park Staff to maintain the leaf build up around the parks or to blow off the decomposed granite from the surfaces of the artwork.

8. MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR DEVELOPER CHOSEN ART

Spago ownership is working on a proposal with an artist to present to the Commission for approval.

The Beverly Hills Hotel has requested back up documentation for this outstanding obligation of \$30,000. The new owners had no idea there was a Fine Art Obligation attached to the property.

2 Rodeo General Manager has requested time so he can present the issue directly to the property owners next month.

440 No. Rodeo owners have been sent the letter, notifying them of their public art obligation. Staff is still waiting for a reply.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FINE ART ORDINANCE

The revised Fine Art Ordinance was presented to City Council on 10-23-14. City Council accepted all of the provisions of the proposed revision and they suggested that we keep the language from the past ordinance. The complex process reflected in Section D of this revised ordinance has netted a total of only \$10,000 over the course of 6 years and it involved a very time consuming process. This process triggered the Fine Art Obligation at \$250,000 collecting a deposit for the Fine Art Obligation that required tracking each project for 12 months to determine if there were additional renovations or construction that would increase the amount of their Fine Art Obligation or if a refund was needed.

City staff from Community Development and Finance reviewed the FAO process and they all agreed that it would be more efficient to change the Fine Art Ordinance trigger amount to \$500,000 to simplify the process.

We talked to the City Attorney and we tried to reflect where these new changes would be made in the revised Fine Art Ordinance. The most relevant change would be the elimination of section D from the ordinance.

Next step would be to take this new revised version of the ordinance to City Council, assuming that City Council concurs with this vote, there will be a first and second reading of the Ordinance and it would go into effect 30 days after that.

MOTION: Vice Chair Potter moved that the new trigger point in the new Fine Art Ordinance is \$500,000 and it will incorporate all the proposed changes under the red line in the Fine Art Ordinance. Commissioner Kaye seconded the motion.

AYES: Chair Pressman, Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter

ABSENT: Commissioner Chalom, Commissioner Hiller

NOES: None

CARRIED: 3/0

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING FENCING AROUND THE KUSAMA

We have a contract with the designer. Based on the input from the Fine Art Commission staff and from at least one Recreation and Parks Commissioner, the designer is starting to work on the design. We will have representatives of the Fine Art Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission take a look at the proposed design once it is ready.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.