



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
10:00am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: October 13, 2020 / 10:01 am

CIVILITY STATEMENT

The Civility Statement was read to initiate the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Filipovic, Vahn, and Rubins, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, Pam Shinault, Kristin Buhagiar, Jenny Rogers, Patty Acuña, Paul Paolone, Adrine Ovasapyan, Aida Thau, Mandana Motahari, Shana Epstein, Timmi Tway

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By order of Chair Smooke, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Vahn, SECONDED by Vice Chair Frank to approve the minutes (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Filipovic, Vahn, and Rubins, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

None

PRESENTATIONS

2. City of Beverly Hills Solid Waste Retention

Public Works Director Shana Epstein presented information on the City's solid waste rates. Staff is proposing an adjustment to City Council effective July 1, 2021. A mailer was sent out to residents which includes a table of contents, public hearing information, a letter from the Director, residential and commercial rates, FAQs, and contact information for the Public Department if anyone has questions or comments.

3. City of Beverly Hills Housing Element Update

Principal Planner Timmi Tway provided an overview of the City's Housing Element Update from the Planning Division. The City of Beverly Hills has a General Plan document including several elements. The housing element is the only chapter of this plan that is required to be periodically updated by the state of California. The current update will apply to the period from 2021 to 2029 and will outline City goals regarding housing for the community. The Housing Element has a deadline of October 2021 and is seeking community participation in this project.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. Financial Update

Senior Recreation Supervisor Paul Paolone reported on the Fine Art fund and informed on pending permits and fees.

5. Artwalk Map Brochure

Commissioner Rubins is waiting for status of three artworks as they are pending possible location changes. Staff is working with the City Attorney's Office to clarify concerns regarding the artworks. The Commission agrees to move forward with the printing process as City artworks will always be in flux.

6. Art in the Landscape

City Architect Mandana Motahari gave a brief summary of the previous discussion with the Commission regarding Art in the Landscape. The report includes applied recommendations for landscaping for the Tom Friedman's *Takeaway* sculpture and Ai Weiwei's *Iron Root* sculpture. A proposal for relocation of the Carol Bove *IO* sculpture was also part of the discussion. The Commission decided to bring the Ai Weiwei sculpture and the Friedman sculpture to the Fine Art and Public Art Ad Hoc with a recommendation on ground covering for each artwork. The Commission decided that they want interaction with the Friedman artwork and would like to see an organic transition from the lawn where the

sculpture sits. The Bove artwork will need to be discussed with the artist and gallery for approval of new location. At the new site, staff and the Commission propose that a retaining wall is built and level the grass area, then bushes can be added as a natural wall edging. Behind the artwork, tall hedges would present a natural backdrop to soft the appearance of the building's facade. The Fine Art and Public Art Ad Hoc will review options for relocation of the Bove sculpture and bring back preferred options to the full Commission.

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Nechita Artwork Update**
Staff has been in communication with Dimitri and Alexandra Nechita to develop language for the agreement to reflect that while the City cannot commit to a 10-year fixed location, it does not intend to make every effort to see the artwork displayed in a prominent location.
- **Ai Weiwei Artwork Update**
The artwork is at the fabricator. Progress is going well. The landscaping for the sculpture needs to be selected to determine the plinth height.
- **Drive-In Movies at Greystone**
On Friday, October 23rd, one of the first drive-in movies will take place at the upper parking lot of Greystone Mansion. It will be a safe and socially-distant event for the community during the pandemic. Community Services Department has partnered with the NextGen Committee to work on this project. The first event will be showing the film *Hocus Pocus*.
- **Fall Virtual Art Show**
The Fall Art Show will take place on October 17th and 18th and will be virtual again. In addition to the live Zoom sessions, there will be some onsite art workshops at Greystone Mansion to complement the virtual workshops. They are limited to 10 people, socially distanced, and all the safety protocols will be followed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- **Chair's report**
 - a) **Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights**
 - b) **Ad Hoc Committees**
 - Fine Art and Public Art (Smooke, Vahn)
 - Cultural and Events (Frank, Vahn)
The City Council approved an inter-commission venture between the Human Relations Commission and Arts and Culture Commission, entitled *Embrace and Celebrate Culture*. The first event is from November 19, 2020 to November 29, 2020 at the Wallis Center for Performing Arts. The art installation by TZ Projects, Torie Zalben & Liana Weston. There will be a series of artworks projected on the windows of the exterior of the Wallis building to celebrate diversity and culture. The second event is a partnership with United Talent Agency called Beyond 2020 consisting of art installations activating empty storefront window in Downtown Beverly Hills. The current timeline for those installations to go live is mid-December 2020 to mid-January 2021.
 - c) **Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities**
Commissioner Rubins witnessed the Jaume Plensa sculpture "Endless V" vandalized on October 16, 2020. A mirror was placed on the sculpture and food

wrappers inside the artwork. Staff informed the City Manager that the Parks Division staff would be contacted for removal of the trash. Staff also contacted Rosa Lowinger and RLA Conservation to clean up the piece and they reported no permanent damage. Working with the Police Department, a transient individual was identified via camera footage. Staff believes this person was not intentionally trying to vandalize the artwork. The City will be protecting public artworks during the election period due to anticipation of protests. Staff is working with Rosa Lowinger to identify methods of protection during that time period. Commissioner Rubins suggested the use of the City app called AskBev acquired through the app store in which the public can make comments to the City right away should they see something amiss or in need of clean up, repair and/or immediate maintenance attention.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

- Director's Report
- Information only items
 - a) Arts and Culture Commission Upcoming Meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: October 13, 2020 / 11:55 am

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 16th day of November 2020.



Michael Smooke, Chairperson