



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

## MINUTES

### FINE ART COMMISSION Regular MEETING July 17, 2014 4:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Chair Pressman

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

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

##### **1. COMMISSION MINUTES**

The Minutes of June 19, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved as amended

##### **2. REPORT BY FINE ART COMMISSION STAFF LIAISON (Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Brad Meyerowitz)**

###### **• Information only**

- A. The Fine Art Fund is reported at \$ 1,928,036.00.
- B. The lighting on *Erratic* has been installed as well as has been the astronomical clock. The latitude and longitude of the block in Beverly Gardens Park has been entered into the clock, which causes the lights to turn on and off at the optimum times, providing light only when needed. Before, park staff would change the settings twice a year, often causing the lights to be turned on for a couple of hours before they were needed. They lights need to be refocused, which will be done at a later date, since it can only be done after dark. The clock will eventually pay for itself in saved energy output. Park staff will paint the conduit for wires that travel up the tree a color that will match the tree. Lights to illuminate *Erratic* will be installed on June 25th starting at 8:00 am.
- C. City Staff continues to work with the Zwirner Gallery, trying to get some sort of warranty on the workmanship of the fabricator of artist Carol Bove's *IO*. The Gallery has said they would approach the fabricator about providing some protection, but at last report, they were still working on that.

- D. Commissioners are reminded to bring forth the artwork they want to present for consideration by August 31st.
- E. Nichole Maloney's OOMO Cube has been installed in the City of Los Angeles in front of the Japanese/American National Museum. There is still interest on the part of the artist to have an installation of this work installed in Beverly Hills. It would be tailored to life in Beverly Hills. The Fine Art Commission all along felt that this project fit better with the mission of the Human Relations Commission and it would be under the auspices of this mission the installation would find its home. A location for this proposed installation will be examined.
- F. Commissioners expressed appreciation of having the minutes from the Mayor's Cabinet meeting included in the packet.
- G. The Commission structure is a project still being worked on by Vice Mayor Gold and Councilmember Krasne. Their intent is to bring the structure and rules and regulations of all Commissions into alignment with one another. This update is being presented to the Commission and has been presented to the City Council for preliminary discussion. The City Council will take a formal vote on this document at the end of July. Until such time as this new document has been adopted by Council, the old rules and regulations apply.
- H. The status of the Developer chosen artwork report is still being gathered. The item was tabled until such time as a more complete effort can be presented.

- **Other Items**

None

***CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS***

**3. ART OBLIGATION FOR THE WALLIS ANNENBERG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The Annenberg Executive Staff and Beverly Hills City Attorney's office are discussing the legalities surrounding the Center's Fine Art obligation. It is unclear, at this point, whether or not the Center should be assessed with an obligation, therefore this item was pulled from this agenda and will be fully discussed at a later date.

**4. REQUEST TO DONATE TENDERNESS BY PAUL LANCZ TO BEVERLY HILLS**

This is to revisit previous presentations of this work by Paul Lancz's son, who represents his father's work. The son, Peter Lancz, contacted City Hall to urge the City to buy this sculpture, which weighs 4 tons, for \$150,000 to add to the art installations in celebration of the Centennial. The purchase price of \$150,000 does not include transportation, installation, insurance or maintenance fees. The Commissioners felt since they had been presented with this same artwork two separate times before, they reiterated the ultimate fact it does not meet the Fine Art Ordinance criteria.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Potter moved to turn down *TENDERNESS* by Paul Lancz because it does not meet the criteria of the Fine Art Ordinance; i.e., the artist's work is not included in museum collections, he does not have Gallery representation, he does

not have an international reputation, the sales records for this work are listed well below the asking price for this piece, and the artwork he is known for is commemorative in nature, not Fine Art. Commissioner Chalom seconded the motion.

**YEAS:** Commissioners Hiller, Kaye

**NOES:** none

**ABSENT:** Chair Pressman

**CARRIED:** 4/0

## **5. ART OBLIGATION FOR 151 EL CAMINIO**

Wolcott Architect Bob Erbe and Fine Art Consultant Tiffany Lendrum representing clients Barry Schlesinger and John Prebhu, of Kennedy-Wilson presented an installation by Jacob Hashimoto to be accepted to satisfy the Fine Art Obligation associated with this property. Mr. Hashimoto is an internationally renowned artist whose work features multicolored sculptural pieces comprised of small circular kites crafted from rice paper. Mr. Erbe presented the scope of the property renovation. The site plan reveals the 3 story staircase in the middle of the building, facing east, and capped with a skylight, guaranteeing the visibility of the art that will be installed there. They have created the perfect jewel box expressly for the purpose of presenting the sculpture as not only an integral part of the building itself, but as a visible gift to anyone who passes by the building. The finishes on the inside are neutral: stainless steel and glass. This background was expressly developed to serve as a canvas for the artwork. Ms. Lendrum presented the concept of the artwork by Mr. Hashimoto and how it will fit in the space. The artwork will take up the entire 3 story height of the stairwell, with various densities on the vertical plane to allow natural light to filter in where most advantageous. Mr. Hashimoto received his BFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, and has exhibited internationally. His most recent exhibition was at MOCA, highlighting his 3-dimensional structures. The artist likes to have movement in the piece caused by the influences of people walking down the stairs and the effects of air conditioning, etc. It will offer a great visual to those in the building as well as those people standing across the street. The Commissioners were very pleased with the presentation and with the artwork. The general consensus was that the artist sells for far above the obligation, so the residents and visitors of Beverly Hills are the happy beneficiaries. It was also decided not to require the building owners to provide illumination for a minimum number of night time hours.

## **6. REVISION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Commission was presented with the revised version of the Rules and Regulation that was crafted using the approved Public Works Rules & Regulations document. The adjustment of the sentence, (1st page, section 3, 2nd sentence) now reads " The Staff Liaison of the Commission shall confer with the Chairperson, after which the Secretary shall prepare the agenda of all such matters and...." Staff pointed out that once the structure of the Commissions that is being proposed by City Council has been approved and fully adopted, will in truth change the Rules and Regulations that are being voted on today. It will be necessary to re-visit these Rules & Regs as soon as Council has made their determination.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chalom moved to adopt the change to Rules and Regulations governing the procedures of the Beverly Hills Fine Art Commission. Commissioner Hiller seconded the motion.

**YEAS:** Commissioner Kaye, Vice Chair Potter

**NOES:** none

**ABSENT:** Chair Pressman

**CARRIED:** 4/0

**7. PLACEMENT OF CENTER OBELISK**

With the redesign of the Rexford entrance and exit of the Civic Center Garage, the planter areas in front of the Library and the Police Department expanded to such a degree Staff requested the Commissioners reconsider the placement of the *Center Obelisk* to be installed in one of these planter areas, rather than the previously approved location in a corner near the front entrance to the Library. Staff conferred with Park maintenance staff to determine if this move is possible, making sure there will be no irrigation issues to prevent this idea. Staff recommends placing it in the north planter, on the Police side of the entry. Unlike the Library side, where there is only a curb, on the Police side, there is a sidewalk that runs the length of the planter, and would allow those who want, the ability to gain 360 degree access much better than on the Library side, which was of particular interest to then Mayor Mirisch. City Staff will work closely together to guarantee it will be set close enough to the existing sidewalk to allow folks 360 degree access, but not visually conflict with the Police Dept. sign that is also in that planter.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Potter moved that Joan Brown's Center Obelisk be installed in the north planter just south of the Police Department. Commissioner Chalom seconded the motion.

**YEAS:** Commissioners Hiller, Kaye

**NOES:** none

**ABSENT:** Chair Pressman

**CARRIED:** 4/0

**8. COST FOR PLANTINGS AND DECOMPOSED GRANITE AROUND CONVERSATION**

The work of installing decomposed granite has been completed. The total cost of installing decomposed granite around Tony Smith's *Playground*, Jaume Plensa's *Endless V*, Roxy Paine's *Erratic* in Beverly Garden's Park, *Spiral of Life* in a small park area at Rexford and Burton Way, and *Conversation* at Roxbury Community Center was \$6000. The work being done now is to re-direct all sprinkler heads away from the artwork, which was the original goal of this project. Staff will provide an update next month on the continuing condition of the decomposed granite installations.

**9. FENCING DESIGNER CONTRACT FOR KUSAMA**

It was decided to hire a fencing designer to come up with a plan that both the Fine Art and Recreation & Parks Commissions could agree upon, then put the project out to bid from various vendors. We hired one designer, but she had a family emergency causing her to suggest a replacement, John Lavezzo, of Craft, Design, Build. Mr. Lavezzo's bid is slightly higher than the previous bid, therefore staff is requesting that the Commission agree to the increase. The current bid, \$2750, is \$550 higher than the previous.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Potter moved that the Commission proceed with John Lavezzo to design a fencing solution to protect the Kusama's Hymn of Life for a total of \$2750.00. Commissioner Chalom seconded the motion.

**YEAS:** Commissioners Hiller, Kaye

**NOES:** none

**ABSENT:** Chair Pressman

#### **10. CONSIDERATION OF FINE ART ORDINANCE**

The City Attorney's office submitted their suggestions for changes to the Fine Art Ordinance for consideration by the Fine Art Commission. Staff amended City Council's schedule to hear the Ordinance; it will be presented to them on August 19th. The Commissioners presented their suggestions for corrections to the Ordinance as presented by City Attorney's office via Commission Staff.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Potter moved to approve the Beverly Hills Fine Art Ordinance submitted to the Commission by the City Attorney's office, with the changes to be included that were put forth by the Commissioners at the July 17, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Chalom seconded the motion.

**YEAS:** Commissioners Hiller, Kaye

**NOES:** none

**ABSENT:** Chair Pressman

#### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, with the consent of the Commission, Vice Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 5:48 P.M.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted

**August 21, 2014**

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Sandra Pressman, Chair