

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 24, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present: Beverly Denenberg, Chair
Ken Sherman, Vice Chair
Michael Haibach
Jon Bailey
Madeleine Rackley
Whitney Weston
Peter Mays

Staff Liaison: Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds, Jr.

Also present: Dan Berkowitz Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board
Adrienne Crew, Dorothy Parker Society – Los Angeles Chapter
Sharon Neomons, Tom of Finland
Adrienne Crew of the Dorothy Parker Society – Los Angeles Chapter

B. Posting of the Agenda

The agenda was posted per proper noticing procedures at City Hall, West Hollywood Park Auditorium, Plummer Park, West Hollywood Library, and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

C. Staff Comments on the Agenda

There were no staff comments on the agenda.

D. Approval of the Agenda – July 24, 2008

Commissioner Bailey moved that the ACAC approve the July 24, 2008 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 26, 2008

Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC approve the June 26, 2008 meeting minutes.

Commissioner May seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public Comment was heard from Dan Berkowitz, West Hollywood Resident and member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

Mr. Berkowitz thanked the Commission for sponsoring the reading of Robert Patrick's "The Haunted Host" and for the arts grant workshop held July 15, 2008.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Endorsement of Dorothy Parker Society "Parkerfest" Walking Tour

The Commission received a presentation from Adrienne Crew of the Dorothy Parker Society – Los Angeles Chapter concerning a walking tour of Dorothy Parker residences in West Hollywood to take place on Saturday, September 26, 2008.

The Dorothy Parker Society promotes and introduces new readers to the works of Dorothy Parker, an American writer and poet who is best known for her caustic wit and wisecracks, and sharp eye for 20th century urban foibles. Ms. Crew, requested that the Commission endorse the project and if at all possible provide shuttle service to and from Dorothy Parker residences in West Hollywood.

Following, Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC endorse the Dorothy Parker Society "Parkerfest" Walking Tour to be held Saturday, September 26th throughout West Hollywood with a direction that staff provide the organization with information on how to secure the services of the West Hollywood Municipal Bus Line, should the service be available for this purpose.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Endorsement of the Tom of Finland Erotic Art Fair Weekend October 4-5, 2008

The Commission received a presentation from Sharon Neomons of Tom of Finland Foundation concerning the Tom of Finland Erotic Art Fair to be held October 4-5, 2008 at West Hollywood Park.

Ms. Neomons thanked the Commission for their past support. She commented that the fair once held at Plummer Park was moved to West Hollywood Park last year. West Hollywood Park proved to be a much better venue for the Fair, which promotes and furthers the artistic vision of Touko more commonly known as Tom of Finland through the eyes of contemporary artists via exhibitions and other special events. She asked that the Commission endorse the event.

Commissioner Bailey moved that the ACAC endorse the Tom of Finland Erotic Art Fair to be held October 4-5, 2008 at West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Haibach seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Election of Chair

Staff reminded the Commission that Commissioner Denenberg is eligible to serve a full term as Chair as a result of former Commissioner and Chair Lyn DeShields resignation in December 2007 and pursuant to the ACAC bylaws.

Following, the Chair opened the floor for nominations for the election of Chair.

Commissioner Bailey nominated Commissioner Beverly Denenberg as Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Hearing no others, the Chair closed the floor for nominations and then entertained a motion to elect Commissioner Denenberg as Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Commissioner Rackley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The term of the Chair would begin at the August 28th meeting.

D. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the election of Vice Chair to preside over the Commission in the absence of the Chair.

Commissioner Bailey nominated Commissioner Madeleine Rackley.

Hearing no other, the Chair closed the floor for nominations and entertained a motion to elect Commissioner Rackley as Vice Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Commissioner Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission elect Commissioner Madeleine Rackley as Vice Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Commissioner Haibach seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The term of the Vice-Chair would begin at the August 28th meeting.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Eastside Arts Initiative

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Mays and Public Art Consultant Lesley Elwood concerning the Eastside Arts Initiative.

Commissioner Mays reported that Eastside Arts Initiative Committee consisting of two members from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, the Russian Advisory Board and the Project Area Committee have been meeting with Ms. Elwood to explore opportunities, conceptualize and develop arts programming for the West Hollywood eastside. As a result of their most recent meeting, the Committee unanimously approved that a Request for Qualification (RFQ) be

developed by late August/early September in order to select five artists and/or artist teams to develop temporary art for Plummer Park and eight bus shelters on the Eastside that would lead viewers to the art installation in Plummer Park tentatively scheduled for February 2009. He commented that this project in part fulfills the Commission's goal to provide art opportunities for emerging artists to enter into the public art realm.

Commissioner Haibach expressed concerns about the bus shelter art being perceived as advertisement and questioned how the committee plans to measure the impact of the art on the community.

Commissioner Mays commented that the Committee is in the process of addressing those concerns. He spoke on data collection and need for a baseline in order to draw comparisons and accurately measure success.

B. 2008-2009 ACAC Retreat

The Commission received a report from staff regarding consultant Terry Wolverton's proposal to facilitate the Commission's 2008 Retreat scheduled for Sunday, October 12, 2008.

Proposed scope of work would include, research and review of current work plan, mission statement, commissioner bios; agenda development; preparation and facilitation of the retreat, final report and project administration.

Commission retreat agenda items would include review of successes, review of mission statement, review and update of two-year plan, discussion of key areas with respect to fundraising and marketing and commission development.

The proposal was \$2,000.00

Following, it was the consensus of the Commission that staff enter into an Agreement for Services contract with Ms. Wolverton to facilitate the retreat as proposed.

C. City of West Hollywood 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Commission received a report from staff on current activities relative to arts and cultural programming for the City's 25th Anniversary Celebration, including the submission of a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant to support enhanced programming.

Andrew Campbell reported that he met with Cornerstone, Greenway Arts and the Gay & Lesbian Center who expressed considerable interest in collaborating with the City to develop a community based play during the anniversary year that would culminate into a full scale production of the work. Cornerstone would take the lead on the project that would begin in 2009. He also reported that he met with Hedi Duckler of Collage Dance Theatre who expressed interest in developing a dance work that she envisions being performed either at the MAK or the Pacific Design Center. He commented that participating organizations are incredibly excited about their potential participation. Staff will work on acquiring

budget proposals and will keep the Commission apprised of further developments.

Concerning a grant to support enhanced programming, the City will be submitting an application to the NEA, which is due early August.

D. General Plan Update

There was no new information to report on the City's General Plan.

E. Public Art Conservation Program

The Commission received a report from Urban Art Subcommittee Chair Michael Haibach regarding their approval of a one-time forgiveness policy for art missing from the Urban Art collection before 1999 that would include a waiver of administrative penalties and a recommendation that the Commission ratify and forward the item to City Council for approval.

Commissioner Haibach then moved the Commission ratify the Urban Art Subcommittee's recommendation as set forth.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff will forward the item to the Office of the City Clerk for inclusion on the City Council's August 18, 2008 agenda.

F. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Meeting

The Commission received a report from Art on the Outside Subcommittee Chair Beverly Denenberg on their meeting held July 24th.

At the meeting the Subcommittee reviewed a proposal from staff on behalf of the Museum of Neon Art who provided photographs of possible neon signs for a historic Route 66 neon exhibition along Santa Monica Boulevard for the City's 25th Anniversary. As a result of their review, the Subcommittee requested that staff provide them a cost proposal. Concerning other 25th Anniversary projects, the Subcommittee requested more information on archival video works produced by EZTV and regarding the Peace Tower by Mark Di Suvero, Ivana Mestrovic is scheduled to be in the LA area in July. Commissioner Denenberg commented that it is the intent of the Subcommittee to confirm a location with Ms. Mestrovic upon her visit.

The Subcommittee also received an update on the Council approved Peter Shire Sculpture Exhibition. The exhibition is tentatively scheduled to be installed August 25th through November 21, 2008 and staff is investigating the possibility of having the artist reception at Foxtail.

G. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Chair Jon Bailey on their meeting held July 12th.

At the meeting the Subcommittee received a presentation from Gregory Cherninsky regarding a proposal to re-establish a West Hollywood Symphony for the City. As a result of their discussion, the Subcommittee directed staff to provide them with background information on the West Hollywood Orchestra and that Cherninsky provide the City with a fully developed proposal that would include budget and timeline. The Subcommittee also approved a motion that the ACAC endorse the City's participation in the 2nd Annual Festival of California Poets with PEN Center West and the Poetry Society of America to be held Sunday, September 21, 2008. The Subcommittee also received an update from staff regarding Summer Sounds programming, the 2009 Arts Grant Program and 25th Anniversary Projects. Finally the Subcommittee concurred with Staff's recommendation for the Commission to host a facilitated town hall to discuss arts and cultural programming for Pride 2009.

Following Commissioner Bailey moved that the ACAC ratify its recommendation to endorse the City's participation in the 2nd Annual Festival of California Poets.

Commissioner Weston seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Urban Art Subcommittee Meeting

The Commission received a report from Urban Art Subcommittee Chair Michael Haibach on the meeting held July 17, 2008. In addition to what had been reported under Item IV E – Public Art Conservation Program, the Subcommittee unanimously approved Charles Fine as the artist for the London West Hollywood. Art budget for this project approximately \$200,000. The Subcommittee also met with public art consultant Gail Goldman of Gail M. Goldman Associates, LLC to discuss scope of services relative to modifying the City's Urban Arts Ordinance and with Bruce Kaye of the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on possible collaboration between the ACAC and the HPC to coordinate a walking tour and brochure of public art and historic sites in the City. Additionally, the Subcommittee discussed neighborhood walking tours with Karen Mack of LA Commons. Finally, the Subcommittee received a report from staff regarding accepting the "Eye Flower" sculpture as a gift to the City and potential locations that included the Santa Monica Boulevard median near La Cienega, across from the Ramada Hotel.

Commissioner Haibach then moved that the ACAC ratify its recommendation to approve Charles Fine as the artist for the London Project.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Work Plan FY 2007-2008

The Commission continued to monitor its work plan with respect to:

- Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment
- Arts Public Relations Initiative
- Arts Funding Initiative
- Eastside Arts Initiative

- 25th Anniversary Initiative

J. Committee Appointments

The Commission appointed Commissioner Bailey to serve on the Plummer Park Design Steering Committee and Commissioner Haibach to served on the Verteran's Park Memorial Fountain Committee.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no additional items from the Chair.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Weston commented that July 25th will be the last weekend for "Last Seder" by Jennifer Maisel.

Commissioner Mays commented that on August 2, 2008, Gallery 825 will have a fundraising auction.

Commissioner Bailey thanked staff for the WEHO Arts News Briefs.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

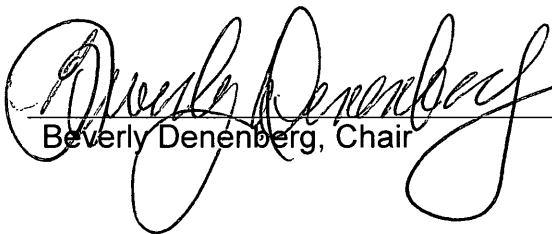
Staff commented on other arts and cultural events as follows:

- **LA Weekly Food Event:** September 13, 2008
- **Poetry Festival:** August 24th.
- **Cost Playhouse:** Available for lease.

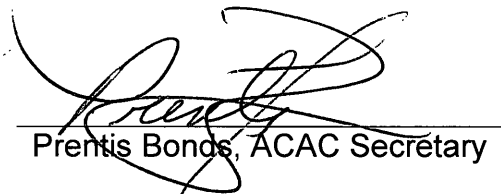
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourn to its next meeting scheduled July 24, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.

Commissioner Weston seconded the motion and meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Beverly Denenberg, Chair



Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary