

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 22, 2007

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

A. Roll Call

Present: Ari Wiseman
Andrew Campbell
Beverly Denenberg
Michael Haibach
Jon Bailey
Ken Sherman

Excused: Lyn DeShields

Recording Secretary: Maribel R. Louie, Economic Development Coordinator

Also present: Dan Berkowitz, City of West Hollywood, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board

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 comments from Staff on the Agenda

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2007

The Commission will consider approval of the February 22, 2007 minutes at the April 26th meeting.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dan Berkowitz, West Hollywood resident and member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board announced that nominations are now being accepted for the Rainbow Key luncheon. They hope the luncheon will become an annual event. The nominee can be in any field, does not have to be gay or lesbian or live in West Hollywood, but must have made an impact on the gay and lesbian community.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Cultural Feasibility and Facility Study – Phase II

The Commission held a special meeting on March 15, 2007 at which they received and reviewed a draft report on Phase II of the Cultural Feasibility and Facility Study prepared by Pfeiffer Partners. At the meeting, Jean Gath of Pfeiffer Partners and Duncan Webb of Webb Management provided an overview of facilities currently under consideration as well as possible sites and preliminary cost estimates. The most feasible is the refurbishment of Fiesta Hall. This included a discussion about the use of West Hollywood Park Auditorium as an interim space, while the library project is completed. Other interim needs considered included a media center and a rehearsal site.

At this time, it seems the Santa Monica Museum of Art may be too large a project. However, the City also has a potential partnership with Fairfax High School who has expressed interest in collaborating with the City. Staff was directed to provide the Commission with a final draft of the report before forwarding the item to City Council. The Commission expressed interest in writing a letter of support to accompany the report.

B. Art on the Outside

Subcommittee Chair Beverly Denenberg reported on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee meeting held March 22, 2007. At the meeting, the Subcommittee continued discussion regarding the Peace Tower and the light/projection exhibition.

Concerning the Peace Tower, Commissioner Denenberg spoke that Mr. di Suvero has expressed considerable reservations concerning the site at Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny. She commented that Staff is in the process of investigating alternative locations and that Ray Reynolds, Director Economic Development and Special Projects has offered to speak with the property owner of the lot at Sunset and Sweetzer. Staff was directed to send images of the site to the artist and/or his representatives, should the property owner express interest.

Concerning the light/projection exhibition, Commissioner Denenberg spoke that the Subcommittee met with art consultant Maria Luisa de Herrera who short-listed three potential artists for this exhibition. The Subcommittee will review final proposals and decide upon an artist at their April 26 meeting. It is anticipated that the exhibition will run from November 2007 and through March 2008.

C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Andrew Campbell reported on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee held March 8, 2007. At the meeting, the Subcommittee received an update from staff on the printing and distribution of the 2007 Arts Grants Event Calendar. It is anticipated that

the calendar will be ready for distribution the week of March 19th. The Subcommittee also reviewed and discussed a draft of the 2008 Arts Grant application, timeline and process. Staff will provide the Subcommittee with a final draft of the on-line/downloadable application packet for review and approval at the April 17th meeting. Finally, the Subcommittee continued to define and clarify the Commission' role and responsibilities relative to City sponsored events such Summer Sounds, Halloween, CSW, West Hollywood Book Fair and the Russian International and continued to develop its 2007-2008 Work Plan.

Commissioner Bailey commented that the Subcommittee heard public comment from Gregory Cherninsky, West Hollywood resident and Founder/Festival Director of the Beverly Hills International Music Festival. Mr. Cherninsky expressed interest in collaborating with the Commission.

D. Urban Arts Subcommittee

Commissioner Haibach reported that the Urban Arts Subcommittee received a presentation from Beatrix Barker who presented three artists for the proposed 53-unit apartment project at 1234 Hayworth. Artist candidates included Brad Howe, Nicolas Hafermaas, and Jody Zellen. The Subcommittee approved Jody Zellen as the artist for the project. Ms. Zellen is a Los Angeles based artist who works in many media simultaneously that explores the subject of the urban environment. The Subcommittee will review Stage II 'Schematic Plan' at a subsequent meeting.

The Subcommittee also reviewed the final art plan for the 16-unit condominium project at 825 Kings Rd presented by developer Richard Loring and artist John O'Brien. The art will consist of three 30" x 36" concrete pedestals that will house a 5" low-relief, cast/tooled bronze plaque generated from aerial photographs and angled to allow for drainage, which will increase the longevity of the art.

Finally, the Subcommittee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Staff regarding the public art conservation report. Members of the Subcommittee recommended conducting initial outreach by neighborhood and priority. Staff was directed to develop a methodology in which to initiate communications with property owners and/or home owner associations concerning conservation of their public art works.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair requested that commissioners contact him or staff if they are going to be late to a Commission meeting or contact their respective subcommittee chair if they are going to be late for a subcommittee meeting. Staff was directed to e-mail contact information to the commissioners.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

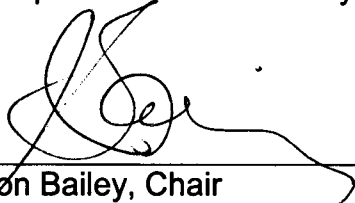
Commissioner Campbell presented background information regarding the percent for art program at Santa Monica. He also distributed the Executive Summary of the Santa Monica Report and a postcard for "Festival of Ideas: Acting Jewish" a series of programs.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items from Staff.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission will adjourn to its next meeting scheduled April 26, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.



Jon Bailey, Chair



Maribel Louie for Prentis Bonds,
ACAC Secretary