

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
April 28, 2005 Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:04 p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Richard Kaléh, Chair  
Michael J. Haibach, Vice Chair  
Ken Sherman  
Jon Bailey  
Lyn DeShields  
Andrew Campbell  
Beverly Denenberg

Interim Staff Liaison: Kathryn Krietzman  
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds

Also present:

Ray Reynolds, Director Economic Development  
Tatiana Rodzinek, Russian Outreach Coordinator  
Steve Johnson of Johnson-Favaro

**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**

Staff requested that New Business Items III-A, III-B and Item VII precede Unfinished Business.

The Commission concurred.

Tatiana Rodzinek, Russian Outreach Coordinator, distributed invitations to the West Hollywood WWII Monument dedication ceremony to be held May 8, 2005, at Plummer Park. She thanked the Commission for their hard work on this project.

Ray Reynolds, Economic Development Director, introduced Kathryn Krietzman, Interim Staff Liaison to the Commission. He also introduced Jeff Huffer, Economic Development Project Administrator and Steve Johnson of the firm Johnson-Favaro.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24, 2005**

The Commission made one correction to the minutes of March 24, 2005, notably under Items from the Commission; Commissioner Campbell clarified that the exhibition "In a New Land" at Plummer Park will run through May 15th rather than May 30, 2005 as noted in the minutes.

Following, Commissioner Haibach moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the minutes of March 24, 2005, as amended. Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

**II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Christopher Street West Council Item – May 2, 2005**

The Commission reviewed Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman's May 2, 2005, City Council consent item that calls for the creation of a community task force to study and make recommendations regarding Christopher Street West (CSW).

Upon review of the item, it was the consensus of the Commission to recommend to City Council that the task force report directly to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and not to City Council now that CSW is under their purview. Several Commissioners expressed that the composition of the task force was too big to be effective.

Staff informed the Commission that they will communicate their concerns regarding the creation of the task force to Council Deputy, Fran Solomon.

**B. Art on the Outside**

Commissioner Denenberg provided an update on the Robert Indiana Sculpture project and spoke concerning the memorandum of understanding she received from the Paul Kasmin Gallery. She expressed her willingness to work with staff on developing the project budget and suggested that the sculptures be consolidated at the Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny median. She informed the Commission that in addition to the "Art" and "Love" sculptures, the "2" and the "0" now on exhibit in Beverly Hills will be part of the West Hollywood exhibit to call attention to the City's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Commission applauded Commissioner Denenberg for her work on this project.

**B. Summer Sounds**

Kathryn Krietzman, Interim ACAC Staff Liaison, provided an update on "Summer Sounds" programming on behalf of Bonnie Smith, Festival and Events Specialist. She distributed a "Special Events Update" and a list of city wide cultural events supported by the City of West Hollywood to the Commission. The update indicated that Recreation and City Manager

staff met with Commissioners Campbell, Sherman and Bailey to discuss "Summer Sounds" programming. As a result of the meeting, Recreation staff has booked the Klezmer Band for August 21 at Plummer Park. The concert will be advertised on over 35,000 flyers with the Playboy Jazz Festival. Additionally, Recreation staff is working with Commissioner Sherman to develop a Cuban music program for July or August. Staff anticipates that the last concert in the series will be held in October in conjunction with the closing of the Book Fair. She also reported that Recreation staff has been working with CSW, Mikel Gerle, Lisa Belsanti and Commissioner Haibach on ideas for the City entry in the "LA Pride" parade. She concluded by informing the Commission that Mikel Gerle is actively seeking participants and staffing, both for the parade and the City booth at the Pride Festival.

The Commission directed staff to agendize for discussion the list of city wide cultural events for the May meeting.

#### **C. Economic Development Project Administrator Position**

Ray Reynolds, Economic Development Director, provided an update on the Economic Development Project Administrator position once held by Alison Maxwell. Out of fifty applications received, ten of the applicants will be interviewed on May 12 by a panel, which will include the Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. He also updated the Commission on their request for a full-time person to staff the Commission and noted that their request was added to the Economic Development Department Budget Narrative.

The Chair commented on a letter sent to members of the City Council requesting that Council consider hiring a full-time staff liaison to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. He directed staff to agendize an item for discussion/action concerning the budget process as it pertains to the creation of a new position in the Economic Development Department to staff the Commission and how the ACAC might provide additional input on this matter before Council approves the 05-06 budget in June.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Matthew Shepard Memorial**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission was asked to review three alternative proposals and reconsider accepting a donation of \$50,000.00 from Gregory Ganci for the design, construction and installation of a memorial sculpture of Matthew Shepherd. The Commission was provided with computer generated images of a life-like sculpture of Matthew Shepherd at various dimensions situated in the Matthew Shepherd Triangle at Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights.

Following review of the three proposals, it was the consensus of the Commission to decline the extremely generous gift of \$50,000.00 for the

design, development and installation of a Matthew Shepherd memorial sculpture as currently proposed for reasons outlined in the October 8, 2004 letter to Mr. Ganci as follows:

1. The City has dedicated Crescent Heights Park to the memory of Matthew Shepherd, which the Commission feels already provides a great tribute to his memory. Today, Matthew Shepherd Triangle is used for many purposes and to honor a variety of members of our community. The addition of a life-size statue of Matthew would greatly change the purpose and feel of the park, transforming it into a single memorial, which was not the intention of the City.
2. There are many men and women in our community who have suffered from hate crimes, and the Commissioners felt that any art work developed with reference to that subject should not be a literal representation of any one victim, but rather a visual exploration of the common themes and issues.
3. The overall size of the project was also of considerable concern; the park is small and intimate and the sculpture would dominate and overshadow the space.

Staff was directed to write a letter to Mr. Ganci declining the gift.

#### **B. West Hollywood Library Schematic Design and Public Art Process**

The Commission received a presentation by Steve Johnson of Johnson-Favaro and Economic Development Department on library schematic design and public art process.

Following the presentation, several Commissioners raised questions and commented on the scope and limitations of meeting space proposed in the development including the permanency of the proposed city council chambers. The Commission felt that the council chambers could be redesigned or enhanced to serve as both council chambers and a multi-purpose/performance space. The Commission suggested that Johnson-Favaro and staff re-examine the scope and limitations of proposed meeting space for performance space.

Commissioner Bailey volunteered to write a letter on behalf of the Commission to City Council on this issue.

Ray Reynolds provided a brief overview of the library public art process as follows and asked that Commissioners e-mail him their comments on the process at [rreynolds@weho.org](mailto:rreynolds@weho.org).

Step 1 J-F (MDA Johnson-Favaro) proposes area(s) for the location of public art in consultation with contracted art consultant Merry Norris,

- Step 2 Art Process Team reviews and comments on J-F proposed locations,
- Step 3 J-F solicits proposals from artists,
- Step 4 J-F proposes two to five artists to best install at the selected location,
- Step 5 Art Process Team reviews and comments on the two to five artists,
- Step 6 Art Process Team reviews proposed artists and selects one for recommendation to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC),
- Step 7 ACAC reviews proposal and recommends location and artist to the City Council.

The Commission requested that staff agendize West Hollywood Library exterior schematic design for a future meeting.

#### **IV. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no additional items from staff.

#### **V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair commented on a variety of topics reported at the last quarterly meeting of the Board and Commission Chairs.

#### **VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Campbell thanked Tatiana Rodzinek for her work on the Russian immigrant youth project, "In a New Land".

#### **VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Public comment was heard from West Hollywood resident Waide Aaron Riddle.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled May 26, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

  
Richard Kalen, Chair

  
Prentis Bonds, Secretary