

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission Thursday, September 13, 2012 – 5:00pm Central Library Conference Room

Convened at 5:03pm

1) Call Meeting to Order:

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order. He noted that Commissioner Greer was on vacation. Commissioner Smith welcomed Caroline Logan, whom he had met previously at the Laguna Arts Festival. He asked Commissioner Logan to say a few words. Caroline Logan noted that she had spent several years in Paris, and has several advanced degrees in art and other subjects. Caroline noted that she has been on the board of directors for Speak up Newport for a long time and that she is very happy to be part of the Arts Commission.

2) Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Robert Smith, Christopher Trela, Carole Boller, Rita Goldberg, Gil Lasky, Caroline Logan

Commissioners Absent: Arlene Greer

Staff Present: Mayor Nancy Gardner; Cultural Arts Coordinator Jana Barbier; Library Services Manager Tim Hetherton

Public Present: Hoyle Kim, Coordinator, Korean American Forum of California

3) Public Comments:

Mr. Kim explained that he was representing the Korean American Forum (KAFC) of California and that, in a nutshell, he was there to briefly explain what the topic "Comfort Women" meant. Mr. Kim explained that Hilary Clinton had talked about the Comfort Women 'holocaust', wherein up to 200,000 Korean women were physically and sexually brutalized by the Japanese military during World War II.

Mr. Kim had originally emailed Mayor Gardner about donating a memorial monument to the City of Newport Beach. He explained that this donation was not politically-based, that it was a non-political topic designed to educate the public, and that justice for the Comfort Women was long overdue. Of the 200,000 women brutalized, only 60 are alive today, and these women are in their late 70s and 80s. The KAFC endeavors to see justice done for these women and their objective is to state the facts about human and women's rights and educate the public. The KAFC is looking for moral support, and would like to find a location in the City for this monument. All costs and protocols would be paid by his organization. Mr. Kim explained that public events could be coordinated to increase awareness of the Comfort Women atrocity. One final comment Mr. Kim made was that he understood that Newport Beach had a sister city in Okazaki, Japan. He noted that the first monument was placed in Okinawa. Mr. Kim had filled out an exhibition application, geared more for exhibiting artists, and noted that the installation might qualify more as a monument than as an art installation.

Commissioner Smith responded to Mr. Kim that this was a concrete example of why the city's policies on public art should be revised to differentiate between an art installation and a monument. Chair Smith explained to Mr. Kim that the commission is in the process of rewriting several of the policies related to art. Smith suggested assigning the subject of a donated

monument to the Art in Public Spaces Committee, and explained that the challenge would be to consult with the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Committee on procedures for accepting donations of monuments.

Commissioner Boller asked if the Comfort Women topic was related to Newport Beach on a personal level. Mr. Kim responded no, but that the chair of the KAFC was a Newport Coast resident; additionally, Mr. Kim's territory was in Newport Beach and Orange County and he was looking into various locations for installations.

Discussion ensued and Commissioner Goldberg suggested that Mr. Kim produce a documentary on this subject in collaboration with the Newport Beach Film Festival.

Under Public Comments, as a separate topic, Mayor Gardner asked if the Arts Commission had considered holding upcoming events at the Port Theater in Corona del Mar.

4) Approval of Minutes:

It was MSP (Boller/Lasky) to approve the August 9, 2012 Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Current Business:

A. Consent Calendar

1. Cultural Arts Activities – Staff provided an updated report and recommended viewing the current Central Library exhibition “In Our Own Words”, a set of 8 essays written by Newport Mesa Literacy learners for the year-long “Searching for Democracy” program.
2. Correspondence and Press – Staff passed around current correspondence and press.

At this time Janet Ray, board member for the Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation, arrived at the meeting and distributed invitations to the Arts Commission to attend the Balboa Beach Music Fest on October 13. Mrs. Ray noted that there would be a VIP party down by the pier at 5:00pm.

Additionally, Chairperson Smith then noted that City staff had made arrangements for the Arts Commission to attend a preliminary tour of the Civic Center and Park on October 4 at 4:30pm. Commissioner Smith discussed his thoughts about the tour, the building and park, and what he expects to accomplish.

B. Items for Review and Possible Action – None

C. Monthly Reports –

1. Art in Public Spaces/Historical Preservation Committee – Commissioner Smith stated that he did not have an actual report, but noted that he'd made a change in the subcommittees, and had appointed Commissioner Logan to the Art in Public Spaces subcommittee, while Commissioner Trela would serve on the Publicity Committee.
2. Fine Arts Committee – Commissioner Boller noted that Commissioner Logan would be serving on the Fine Arts subcommittee; and that the group would be reviewing the art and artists wanting to exhibit at City venues when Commissioner Greer returned.
3. Performing Arts Committee – No report

4. Museum Tours – Commissioner Goldberg noted that the Cleopatra Exhibition at the California Science Center was coming up on Tuesday, October 2 if any commissioners would still like to sign up.
5. Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Commissioner Logan noted that she'd had the pleasure of sitting in for Commissioner Greer at a recent Arts Foundation meeting, where the group had a well-rounded discussion and also elected their officers.
6. Publicity Committee – Commissioner Trela stated that he was tracking Arts Commission events and putting publicity notices in a binder, as Commissioner Goldberg had requested. He asked staff to include him on publicity notices sent by the library marketing specialist.
7. Budget Committee – Commissioner Lasky deferred this report until the following meeting.
8. Cultural Arts Grants Committee – It was noted that the Cultural Arts Grant applications are due on September 28.

Discussion ensued regarding updating current City Council policies related to art. Mayor Gardner noted that a committee would be formed to review potential policy changes. Ideas for changes would then be reviewed by the City Manager's Office and by City Council for approval.

6) City Arts Commission Announcements or Matters Which Members Would Like Placed on a Future Agenda for Discussion, Action or Report (Non-Discussion Item) –

Commissioner Smith requested that the City Grant Account (8254) in the amount of \$40,000 be included on the October 11 Arts Commission meeting agenda.

7) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None

8) Meeting Adjourned 5:45pm – It was MSP (Lasky/Logan) to adjourn the meeting