

City of Newport Beach

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

Convened at 5:00pm

1) Call Meeting to Order:

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order.

2) Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Robert Smith, Carole Boller, Arlene Greer, Gilbert Lasky, Caroline Logan, Christopher Trela, Rita Goldberg

Commissioners Absent: None

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

Public Present: Sara Wilkinson, Artist

3) Public Comments: Sara Wilkinson stated that she had created a public art piece that was on Marguerite Ave. and noted that she was attending as an artist and resident to get an update on potential public art opportunities at the new Civic Center. Ms. Wilkinson noted that she was a landscape architect by training. Commissioner Smith indicated that several upcoming reports would provide information on Ms. Wilkinson's inquiry.

4) Approval of Minutes: It was MSP (Greer/Logan) to approve the November 8, 2012 Minutes.

5) Current Business:

A. Consent Calendar

1. Cultural Arts Activities – Staff provided updated report for Cultural Arts Activities in November/December, 2012 as well as an update on the library closure during the holidays, and staff's schedule (out of office from December 22 – January 7).
2. Correspondence and Press – Staff passed around current correspondence.

B. Items for Review and Possible Action –

Commissioner Smith noted that he would rearrange the order of the Agenda to accommodate committee reports and allow time to discuss "Items for Review and Possible Action". Commissioner Smith asked if there were any objections; there were not. At this time Maggie Lach, Youth Development Director for the Newport/Mesa YMCA, came to the meeting. Ms. Lach presented the Arts Commission with several drawings and notes of appreciation from children and staff from the Newport Mesa YMCA art program for the 2013 Cultural Arts Grant that was received.

C. (Monthly Reports –)

1. *Art in Public Spaces/Historical Preservation Committee* – Commissioner Smith noted that Sara Bancroft from the OCMA had reviewed the Civic Center site. Mr. Smith was not sure if the first piece offered by the museum would be on long-term loan or possibly for sale. Commissioner Goldberg asked if the DeutschBank public art had been accepted and Commissioner Smith responded that the Commission was working on this. It was noted by Smith that the agreement with OCMA doesn't preclude the Arts Commission finding art. Commissioner Smith suggested sending images of potential public art to staff in the Cultural Arts Office. Commissioner Boller suggested photographing public art from all sides.
2. *Fine Arts Committee* – Commissioner Boller stated that staff and commissioners had discussed that the Mark and Janet Hilbert collection would be installed when the new building and library extension opens. She asked staff to start working on a registration form and invitation to the NB Art Exhibition and Sale taking place on April 13, 2013. Boller also discussed adding a purchase prize to the list of financial benefits for entering the show. Staff suggested having a meeting after the holidays to outline continuing and new costs for this event. Mayor Gardner asked if a sponsor could back this event. Discussion ensued as to whether the Arts Foundation was holding onto any additional funds.
3. *Performing Arts Committee* – Commissioner Goldberg stated that she would be attending Festival Ballet's "The Nutcracker" this weekend. Goldberg asked if the Arts Commission would like to switch from a concert to a dance performance for the summer Concerts in the Parks Series. Commissioner Smith discussed utilizing the patio at the new Civic Center for a possible performance. Mayor Gardner offered to talk to the City's Public Information Manager, Tara Finnigan about using that space. Commissioner Trela had contacts that could be considered if the Commission decides to go forward with dance instead of music and would present these contacts at a subsequent "Concerts in the Parks" meeting.
4. *Museum Tours* – Commissioner Goldberg noted that everything was okay with the upcoming museum tour to the Norton Simon Museum.
5. *Arts Foundation Liaison Committee* – Commissioner Greer stated the date of the last Arts Foundation meeting and noted that this group was considering changing the date of their Art in the Park event from June to September or October, possibly including more arts and crafts, and finding sponsors. Greer noted that the Foundation would hold a 'night at the gallery' at the Irvine Museum in March or April.
6. *Publicity Committee* – Commissioner Trela did not have any publicity materials to share, but did note that he is the new editor of *The Newport Beach Independent*. Trela asked if the NBTv coverage that was at the 2012 NB Art Exhibition and Sale could be available again.
7. *Budget Committee* – Commissioner Lasky stated that there were no new expenses this month, and that an updated budget would be reviewed in January. Lasky asked staff to find out if the \$939.37 for concert overtime costs had been paid.
8. *Cultural Arts Grant Committee* – Commissioners Goldberg and Greer clarified that Commissioner Greer would be chairing this committee.

9. Master Plan Committee for Visual & Public Art Installations – Commissioner Smith discussed reviewing City Council Policies I-9 and I-11 and that both policies require consultation from other City committees, such as Parks, Beaches and Recreation. Commissioner Smith wondered why these committees, and also members of the Board of Library Trustees, the Arts Commission and members of City Council couldn't form a task force for public art in the City.

Commissioner Logan reported talking in the same terms and suggested asking that 3 members from the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Committee, Board of Library Trustees, and City Council be involved in such a task force for public art. Mayor Gardner suggested letting City Council know that a task force on public art was being requested by the Arts Commission. This could be done by writing a letter to the Mayor asking to form this committee. Commissioners requested the item "Formation of a Task Force for Public Art" be included in the January 10, 2013 Agenda.

(Item B Continued) Items for Review and Possible Action - Commissioner Smith requested going back to the Agenda:

1. *Consider Acceptance of Long-Term Loan of Two Sculptures from DeutschBank*

Commissioner Smith updated the Arts Commission that DeutschBank does not want the two sculptures being considered for loan back, that they would like to remove the work from storage, and that DeutschBank had a long-standing relationship with OCMA. Commissioner Smith noted that he had been discussing placing these sculptures with various groups in an effort to include the sculpture in the new library expansion. However, Smith noted that the Board of Library Trustees had indicated that they will not be comfortable designating an area in the expansion for public art until the building is complete, and customer traffic has been evaluated. Commissioner Smith indicated that the other sculpture could go to Oasis Senior Center but that Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission would need to be consulted, as well as staff. Essentially, he could not tell where the pieces would go, nor was there a consensus on the pieces.

The question he posed was whether to pass on these works, or make a recommendation to City Council to keep them. Discussion ensued regarding putting together a Council Report with all of the details of this effort, including where they would go, the necessity for a storage area, consensus from other boards, commissions, and City staff. Commissioners discussed whether either sculpture could be mounted outdoors in a covered area, if there should be a site designated before the sculptures are accepted, what the conditions of the loan included. They also asked if DeutschBank expected the City to care for the sculptures and whether they were expected to be visible while on loan.

It was MSP (Smith/Boller) to "Conditionally Accept the Pieces as a Loan, Subject to Approval of City Council and other Boards and Commissions."

Voted in Favor: Smith, Boller, Lasky, Logan, Trela

Voted Against: Goldberg, Greer

2. *Consider Availability of Wine at Newport Beach Art Exhibition and Sale:*

Commissioner Smith gave some background on serving wine to the public at the Newport Beach Art Exhibition and Sale (NBAES). Commissioner Boller suggested a motion to serve wine at the 2013 Newport Beach Art Exhibition and Sale using a licensed caterer, with liability insurance.

Discussion ensued and staff requested making some comments on the use of alcohol at public events, gave a brief background on the prohibition of liquor in parks, and at other public facilities. Staff also reminded the Arts Commission of the liability involved should a problem arise. After thorough discussion, the Arts Commissioners made a decision not to serve alcohol at the Newport Beach Art Exhibition and Sale.

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

7) **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items** – None

It was MSP (Goldberg/Logan) to adjourn the meeting

8) **Meeting Adjourned 6:45pm**