

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission Thursday, June 10, 2010 – 5:00pm Central Library Conference Room

Convened at 5:04pm

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Robyn Grant, Chair; Robert Smith, Vice Chair; Carole Boller, Secretary; Gil Lasky,

Christopher Trela; Wendy Brooks arrived after meeting began

Commissioners Absent: Rita Goldberg

Staff Present: Cynthia Cowell, Library Services Director; Jana Barbier, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Public Present: Sarah Wilkinson, Carmen Smith; Pat Jorgensen

Public Comments:

Sarah Wilkinson of “Sustainable Artworks” introduced herself to the Arts Commission and noted her desire to be involved with public art at the new civic center. Ms. Wilkinson noted that she had recently attended the lecture on public art held in May at Central Library. She had also visited the civic center site and spoken with the foreman about fossilized stones and rocks that were found there.

Commissioner Grant thanked Ms. Wilkinson for attending, noted that this was a good first step and suggested that staff take the information on how to contact Ms. Wilkinson. Ms. Wilkinson noted that she had been selected to create a sculptural work for the “Urban Trees” project in San Diego. It was suggested also that Ms. Wilkinson contact the councilperson from her district to further her ideas for sustainable artwork at this site.

Approval of Minutes:

It was MSP (Lasky/Smith) to approve the May 13, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes.

It was MSP (Smith/Lasky) to approve the May 17, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Reviewed and filed.

Correspondence/Press – Reviewed and filed.

Committee Updates:

Commissioner Brooks expressed concern over limiting public art opportunities to one organization at the Civic Center. Commissioner Grant suggested having a deeper discussion on the issue during committee updates.

Fine Arts Committee – Commissioner Boller reviewed the artwork currently on display and reminded everyone to attend Ting-Ting Lee’s artist’s reception on July 19.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioner Lasky noted that the details were all set for the summer performances. Commissioner Trela asked that all press release information be sent to him to assist in marketing the programs.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Commissioner Boller noted that she was unable to attend the last Arts Foundation meeting but had heard that it was great. She noted that all of the plans for the Foundation’s Art and Craft in the Park event were moving forward for June 19.

Budget Committee – Commissioner Lasky asked if the library’s event planning form was finished yet. Library Services Director, Cynthia Cowell, noted that when this form was complete, it will be a good system for forecasting costs and revenue.

Art in Public Places Committee – Commissioner Smith noted that he and Commissioner Trela had met some time ago with the Mayor, who suggested that collaboration with the Orange County Museum of Art would provide expertise, as well as a mechanism for funding public art at the civic center and park. Smith noted that this collaboration called for a long-term effort with the museum and that a Memorandum of Understanding was required for this. He noted that a staff report was written to accompany the MOU, which would go before City Council on June 22. It was noted that all commissioners and foundation members were encouraged to attend the June 22 City Council meeting. Commissioner Smith noted that a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts would provide a boost to this effort and that the commissioners should know by June 27 whether the grant application to the NEA had been accepted.

Cultural Arts Grant Committee – Commissioner Brooks asked that Cultural Arts Grant Committee be changed to Cultural Arts Grants Committee on the agenda. She stated that she would be attending the Baroque Music Festival’s 30th anniversary performance on June 27.

New Business:

Consider and Recommend accepting donation of painting of Newport Beach City Seal by artist, Robert Holton:

Staff provided a photograph and artist’s description of the artwork being discussed. The Arts Commissioners decided to reexamine the guidelines for the donation of art. Discussion ensued as to whether the decision to accept the donation should be made. The Arts Commission’s exhibition committee members requested seeing the painting in person before making a recommendation at a subsequent meeting.

Future Agenda Items: Discussion amongst Commissioners to create a committee whose purpose is to review locations for public art outside the perimeter of the civic center and park.

Commissioner Announcements: Commissioner Grant announced that she would be travelling to Boston and therefore would be cancelling the July 8 meeting and asking staff to set up a special meeting for July 15. Commissioner Trela noted that he is writing a restaurant review column for “The Independent”.

It was MSP (Trela/Boller) to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: 6:10p.m.