

**Civic Arts Commission Minutes**  
**Community Chambers Conference Room**  
**April 11, 2005**

**Commissioners Present:** Joanna Stone (Chair), James Allen (Co-Vice Chair), Olivia Lundberg (Co-Vice Chair), Suzanna Duffy-Tajeldin, Roy Engoron, Stacey Vetter, Casey Hutchins (alternate)

**Commissioners Absent:** Edelgard Brunelle

**Staff Present:** Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager, Torrey Cummings, Program Assistant

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Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

- 1. Approval of agenda.** Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Allen seconded the motion, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously
- 2. Approval of Minutes** Commissioner Lundberg moved, and Commissioner Hutchins seconded the motion, to approve the March 2005 minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Written Communications** Regular monthly publications and announcements were circulated.
- 4. Public Communications** None.
- 5. Staff, City Council, Commission Communications:**

Chair Stone brought in an article from the Palo Alto Weekly regarding the Palo Alto Arts Commission.

Commissioner Engoron reported that he went to an opening at the Pence Gallery and it seemed well attended.

Commissioner Allen reported that he had visited two museums in southern California.

Staff Polito reported that she participated in a tour of Berkeley's arts and cultural district with the American Planning Association, and described some of the differences in planning approaches between Berkeley and Davis as applied to encouraging arts and cultural venues.

- 6. Art in Private Development** Staff reported that the visit to Dublin and Sunnyvale has been rescheduled for later in the month.

7. **Juried Art Show** Commissioners discussed feedback they had received on the 2005 color theme. Commissioners were pleased with the prospectus.
8. **Public Art Projects Progress Reports** Staff updated the commission on the status of the Neighborhood Art Projects in progress, and the project at the senior center.
9. **Public Art Planning** Commissioner Hutchins reported on the subcommittee meeting with Commissioner Brunelle.

Major topics of discussion:

- **Landmark art works**, such as a major gateway piece, a piece visible from the freeway, or a promotional billboard, which could be a venue for a rotating exhibit of temporary art pieces.
  - Commissioners were less interested in the idea of a freeway-visible piece, because the emphasis should be on the use to the community, rather than the people passing by.
- **Other Artworks** with the understanding that a larger, more expensive piece would mean fewer, less expensive pieces elsewhere. Possibilities discussed included a series of temporary works at the Community Garden on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, more neighborhood art pieces at various locations.
- **Locations** preliminary discussion about sites for future neighborhood art projects, and locations downtown for small pieces and for larger landmark pieces.
- **University Connection** Staff briefly informed commissioners about the University project to connect the university to the downtown area, noting that it would be in the city's best interest to ensure a smooth transition from the university's planned area to the downtown, so that the pattern of enhanced landscaping and artwork continues into the city, rather than simply focusing on retail. Suggestions include hiring an art consultant and staying informed about the university's plans.

**Action: Chair Stone moved to recommend that the Commission request a presentation from city staff regarding the university Connections project at the next meeting. Commissioner Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Harper Junior High Project** Staff and Commissioner Engoron reviewed proposal received from the art department chair. Commissioners expressed concern with the selection of the Harper Huskies, the school mascot, as the subject matter for the art project, particularly if the school would be using the art funding to develop the school logo. Commissioners questioned whether this was in keeping with the intent of the donation, which was to enhance the campus with public art, preferably by a local artist working in collaboration with students. More information will be needed on the school's plans on how a mural would be designed and installed.

**11. Adjourn** Commissioner Engoron moved to adjourn; Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito  
Cultural Services Manager