

Civic Arts Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
September 12, 2005

Commissioners Present: James Allen (Vice Chair) Edelgard Brunelle, Roy Engoron, Casey Hutchins (alternate), Joanna Stone (Chair), Stacey Vetter

Staff Present: Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager; Torreya Cummings, Program Assistant

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

1. Approval of agenda.

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Allen seconded, to transpose items 8 and 9 and approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes Minor corrections to the June minutes were noted.

Action: Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve the June 13 minutes as amended. Commissioner Brunelle Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Allen seconded, to approve the July 11 Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Written Communications Regular monthly publications and announcements were circulated.

4. Public Communications None.

5. Staff, City Council, Commission Communications:

A. North Davis Greenbelt art update Staff reported briefly on the status of Jean Van Keuren's project, noting that there is not yet a date for a dedication ceremony.

B. Mace Ranch Park Update Staff reported briefly on the status of Sam Tubiolo's project, stating that the workshop at the park opening celebration was well attended. The project is expected to be completed in the spring.

- C. Arts Contracts** Staff and commissioners reviewed the schedule for the Art Contract competition.
- D. Other** Staff announced that a joint meeting is planned for the October meeting date, Monday, October 10, and the draft Art in Private Development Ordinance will be discussed.
- 6. Art Planning** Staff and commissioners finalized plans for the September 17th brainstorming meeting.
- 7. Juried Art Show** Commissioners mentioned the positive feedback they had received from participants. Staff stated that the next show is probably already scheduled for August, and although April would be better, it may not be possible. Staff circulated a letter from former commissioner Olivia Lundberg, communicating that the small format has been very successful and should be maintained.
- 8. Art in Private Development** Staff stated that the proposed Art in Private Development ordinance will be on the agenda at the joint meeting with the city council. Commissioners discussed staff recommendation.

Action: Commissioner Brunelle moved to approve the staff recommendation; Commissioner Engoron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

- 9. Verizon proposal** Staff introduced the item, stating that the Planning Commission has asked for CAC input on whether a new Verizon monopole should incorporate an art element, and that Verizon submitted several alternatives. In the case of the proposals presented by Verizon, commissioners unanimously agreed that the designs are not art, but rather graphic design. The commissioners remarked that, while graphic design has an important place in the environment, there is a fundamental difference between graphic design and public art. Recognizing that the commission would not typically graphic design, the commission did agree to provide comments at the request of staff. Following further discussion, they unanimously agreed that the proposed graphic design treatments were not appropriate in that they appear to call more attention rather than less to the tower without creating the landmark entry art piece discussed by the Planning Commission.

Commissioners then commented that the overcrossing landscaping is visually unappealing. By consensus, they agreed that improving the landscaping as a visual mitigation has at least as much merit as turning the pole into an art piece. Ideas included asking Verizon to provide funds for an artist to work with a landscape architect on designing comprehensive overcrossing improvements and asking the city to designate all or a portion of rental revenue from the pole site to be used for overcrossing landscape maintenance.

Action: Commissioner Allen moved that it is appropriate to use the Art in Private Development guidelines to provide mitigation under CEQA, provided that an

artist is involved, and that art treatments may involve the pole and also the median to distract attention from the pole, or a combination thereof. Commissioner Engoron seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0-2, Commissioners Allen, Engoron, Brunelle and Vetter in favor, and commissioners Duffy-Tajeldin and Stone abstaining.

10. Adjourn

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved to adjourn; Commissioner Duffy-Tajeldin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito
Cultural Services Manager