

City Council and Civic Arts Commission
Joint Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 10, 2005
Senior Center, 646 A Street

City Council Members Present:	Ruth Asmundson (Mayor), Don Saylor, Stephen Souza
City Council Members Absent:	Sue Greenwald, (Mayor Pro Tem), Ted Puntillo
Commissioners Present:	Joanna Stone (Chair), James Allen (Vice Chair), Edelgard Brunelle Suzanna Duffy-Tajeldin, Roy Engoron, Casey Hutchins (alternate)
Commissioners Absent:	Stacey Vetter
City Council Liaison:	Don Saylor
City Staff:	Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager, Jim Antonen, City Manager; Torreya Cummings, Cultural Services Program Assistant

Mayor Asmundson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Chair Stone opened the commission meeting.

- 1. Approval of agenda** Commissioners and council agreed to hold public comment until an expected member of the public arrived, by consensus. **Action: Commissioner Brunelle moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Engoron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Introductions** Council Members and Commissioners briefly introduced themselves.
- 3. Written Communications** Staff stated that regular monthly publications, would be available for view after the meeting, and circulated a letter regarding a proposed donation from John Natsoulas which will be on the agenda for the November meeting. Chair Stone and Commissioners Brunelle and Allen volunteered to serve as an Ad Hoc subcommittee to review the donation proposal and report back to the Commission in November.
- 4. Commission, Staff, Council Liaison Communications** Staff announced that the dedication ceremony for Jean Van Keuren's dog sculptures in the North Davis Greenbelt. Mayor Asmundson confirmed that she will be present to represent the city.
- 5. Business Items Discussion of Topics of Mutual Interest** This is the time for Council members and Commissioners to discuss various matters within the purview of the Civic Arts Commission. Chair Stone reviewed the Commission's 2004/2005 activities, including the neighborhood art projects, the new piece at the Senior Center, the Juried Art Show, the Art Contracts competition, the art planning meeting, and the art in private development proposal.
- 6. Public Communications** Reed Benett discussed a donation to Arroyo Park that had been categorized as a park amenity, but had some artistic elements. He stated that he was concerned that the public process had not been adequate, and that the project should have

been before the Civic Arts Commission for their discussion. He was also concerned that siting the structure so close to the flying saucer detracted from the impact of that piece, and stated is further concern that the noticing for the Parks Commission meetings was inadequate.

Joe Krovoza spoke; a summary of his comments follow:

- The project came to the Parks Commission, for their discussion of a location, but not aesthetics.
- Neighbors put together some comments about the types of amenities the park actually needs, as well as their comments on location, but obtained no response from the city.
- The project should be considered an art piece, and as such should go before the Arts Commission for their review of its aesthetic merit.

Another neighbor stated that his concern was that the structure is ugly and he doesn't want it near his house, as was originally proposed.

Commissioners stated that while they could not presently discuss the issue, because it was not on the agenda, they would agendize the item for the next regular meeting, noting that nothing can be changed at this point unless Council reconsiders their vote.

- 7. Planning Process for new Public Art Pieces .** Planning subcommittee Commissioners Brunelle, Hutchins and Duffy-Tajeldin recapped the planning meeting on September 17th and the planning process for new Art in Public Places projects. Additionally, Council and Commissioners discussed the city's donation policy. Commissioners explained that when the arts are involved early in a project's planning process, art can be better integrated into the project.

In the example of the Third Street corridor project, Council members suggested that although it might have been better to involve art planning earlier, the area can still be used for placing donated art. Council members suggested that a "master plan" for arts in Davis would be helpful.

City Manager Antonen suggested that it would be helpful to have an artist ready to work when a new project is ready to start, although we must be able to be flexible if a project falls through. Staff Polito explained that because the city has a relatively few new competitions, it is difficult to keep artists on a list waiting potentially for years for a new project to come up.

Council members suggested that it would be helpful for the civic arts commission to be aware of the list of capital improvement projects that the council approves to be able to prepare early.

- 8. Request for Council direction regarding Art in Private Development Ordinance.** AIPD subcommittee Commissioners Allen and Engoron discussed their research and the staff report, stressing that in order for the ordinance to be most effective, some information and experience should be accrued. To this end, they suggested, AIPD guidelines should be part of negotiations in the next few large projects, and use the results and feedback to shape a recommendation.

Council members responded that this seemed like a sensible plan, but the commission must understand that because it will be part of the negotiation process, there will have to be some flexibility.

Council Member Souza gave positive feedback on the staff report. Council Members suggested that the DDBA, the Chamber of Commerce and the Business and Economic Development Commission be asked to comment on the proposal before it is brought forward to the Council for consideration.

Staff Polito stated that she would clarify that the voluntary Phase I that is being recommended does not pre-suppose the final actions that the Council might take in the future regarding a new ordinance.

9. Adjourn Action: Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Duffy-Tajeldin seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito
Cultural Services Manager