



**Civic Arts Commission Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 12, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:** Ruth Santer (chair), Yvonne Clinton, Chad Fisk, Michael French, Bill Mead

**Commissioner(s) Absent:** none

**Council Liaison(s):** Gloria Partida (absent)

**Staff Present:** Rachel Hartsough, Arts & Culture Manager

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**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Santer at 6:05 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Action: Commissioner Mead moved and Commissioner Clinton seconded approval of the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons**

- Staff shared an update from the City Council meeting on January 30, 2024, regarding the proposed merger of several City Commissions, including the potential combination of the Human Relations Commission and the Civic Arts Commission.

**4. Public Comment.**

- Diane Roberts Musser provided comment regarding her objection to consolidation of commissions.

**5. Consent Calendar**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and non-controversial, require no discussion, as items are expected to have unanimous support, and may be enacted by one motion.

A. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2023

*Action: Commissioner Clinton approved, and Commissioner Fisk seconded approval of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

**6. Regular Items**

Commissioners received an informational update from staff on recent and in-progress programs and projects:

**Public Art Donations**

- Fiat Lux- Karim Abou Najm Remembrance: A proposed donation, a sculpture by artist Nicole Beck, was approved by City Council on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The completed artwork is projected to be installed in Sycamore Park in late 2024. Due to the unusual circumstances of this project, the work was brought directly to City Council

for approval and bypassed the regular initial vetting and recommendation by Civic Arts Commission. The sculpture will be funded through community donations, with the balance of outstanding costs covered through Municipal Arts Funds.

## Public Programs

Commission received informational update on city-sponsored programs:

- Recology Artist-In-Residence (AIR) Program- Recology to cover costs, staff in conversation with City leadership regarding next steps.
- UCD Institute of the Environment- Greg Shilling to design, incorporating themes of regenerative ag, soil health, and healthy food shed. Project scheduled for Spring, 2024 with the Institute for the Environment working with Hilton Garden Inn to use their elevated wall near 1<sup>st</sup> and G.
- Solidarity Space - Staff continues work on a city-administered RFQ for a permanent public artwork in Central Park.
- Poet Laureate - Julia Levine's term has been extended through September of 2024. A call will go out in March soliciting nominations for the next Poet Laureate.

## Art in Public Places

Commission received informational updates on current Collection:

- Save the Frogs/Salva las Ranas (formerly Frog Totem)- Awaiting final plaque. Staff is in communication with the artist's estate, who is contracted to clean and seal the artwork before the final purchase payment is made.
- Balance Beam- Awaiting final plaque.
- The Cyclist- Currently in safe storage while Commission and staff continue to search for an appropriate site.

Commission received updates on in-progress and upcoming projects:

- F Street Wall- artists requested additional extension, which was granted, and the artists are also working to identify a contractor for installation.
- N Street Park Stage- City staff are working with the artist and structural engineer to develop plans for the concrete slab and electrical connections. After approved, City Public Works will contract the slab work: estimated slab timeline is Spring/Summer 2024.
- Russell Greening City Hall Seat Bench: relocation approved for entrance to Council Chambers at City Hall, to be installed later in 2024.
- Central Park Splashpad- artist Susan Shelton's design work is progressing and an in-progress panel was shared with Commissioners.

## Collection Care & Maintenance

Commissioners received updates on repairs and collection maintenance.

- G Street Fence- Staff working with contractor to repair and replace damaged panel.
- Sophie- in need of repairs due to fallen tree branch damage. Staff are in possession of ear, and reaching out to artist to determine next steps for repair.
- Watchman #8- Commissioners were provided with 3 bids from potential contractors to reconstruct this piece due to multiple rotten deck planks.

*Action: Commissioner Mead made a motion, and Commissioner French seconded, to move forward with the needed repairs on Watchman #8, a public artwork in Slide Hill Park, deferring to staff to select the contractor based on City guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Public Art Guidelines**

Commissioners continued discussion on revision of review and protocols. Chair Santer shared that she has been doing some initial research, and Commissioners were asked to coordinate additional research efforts in order to find some model language that can be used to develop a draft for updates to the current Public Art Guidelines.

### **7. Long Range Calendar**

- A. Next Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard.
- B. Potential Agenda Items

### **8. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Rachel Hartsough  
Arts & Culture Manager  
City of Davis