

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Bunting led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Rische, Smisek, and Chairperson Miranda.

Absent: Commissioner Strehler.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport and Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell.

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Strehler for the October 19, 2009 Commission meeting. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved to approve the September 21, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None

7. ON-GOING BUSINESS

7a. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PERMANENT SCULPTURE IN MIRAMAR PARK

Manager Rappoport noted that this item was continued from the September 21, 2009 Commission meeting to allow Commissioners the opportunity to visit the proposed site prior to making a decision. She stated that a petition, correspondence, and a map of Miramar Park with three acceptable locations were included in agenda materials.

Chairperson Miranda stated his opinion that there would be no obstruction of the ocean view.

Commissioner Bunting stated that she is not fond of the sculpture being placed in Miramar Park but would not oppose it if there is consensus to install it.

Commissioner Candioly stated that he loves the sculpture but that El Retiro Park would be a better environment for it, adding that he sees no obstruction of view.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts concurred that there is no obstruction, stated that she does not believe it is dangerous for children to climb on, and related her observation that the sculpture is better suited in the Torrance Art Museum garden or a different park.

Commissioner Rische stated that arguments against placement at Miramar Park are silly and that she has no objection to its installation.

Commissioner Smisek stated that the donor's request should be honored and that she is strongly in favor of permanent installation in Miramar Park.

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to install the sculpture "Dreaming of the Kiss" in Miramar Park. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected 3-3 (absent Commissioner Strehler).

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to bring the item back to the November Commission meeting when there is a full Commission. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler).

7B. MEMBERSHIP EXHIBITIONS AT THE TORRANCE ART MUSEUM

Manager Rappoport reported that staff met with leadership from Torrance Artists Guild (TAG) and South Bay Watercolor Society (SBWS) to present a proposal for a South Bay Focus in the material of record. She stated that the proposal meets the needs of both TAG and SBWS as well as Torrance Art Museum's (TAM) need to broaden eligibility. She advised that both TAG and SBWS like the proposal and will be taking it back to their boards for review. She stated that she anticipates some modifications and that a final version will be brought back to the Commission by the January 2010 meeting. She requested that Commissioners and audience members provide comments regarding the proposal.

Commissioner Candioly stated that the proposal seems like a very nice way to put the whole package together.

Penny Kastagir, President of TAG, stated that TAG feels it is an equitable proposal but that SBWS may not go along with it. She noted that the SBWS board will

consider the proposal on November 14, 2009 and pointed out that there is an overlap of TAG and SBWS members.

Stephen West, Linda Drive, stated that SBWS is concerned that less transparent watercolors would be available to show in South Bay Focus because of changes made to match National Watercolor Society requirements. He further stated that membership in TAG should be mandatory and not optional and stressed the importance of creating a venue for Torrance high school art students to show their talent.

Manager Rappoport responded that there was no way to guarantee the number of watercolors that would be accepted and that participants in South Bay Focus will most likely be required to become TAG members.

Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, received clarification from staff that selection would be limited to one work per artist and that 60-65 artists will be shown. She pointed out that local artists bring visitors into the Museum and offered to look for a sponsor to fund an annual show for local artists at Toyota Meeting Hall or Torino Plaza.

Commissioner Bunting stated that the proposal is a wonderful step forward and, in response to her inquiry, Manager Rappoport advised that criteria for South Bay Focus would still need to be developed as a group.

June Armstrong, 186th Street, expressed appreciation to staff, Commissioners, and artists' groups for working together to resolve issues.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. SUPERVISOR DON KNABE ARTS EDUCATION GRANT

Manager Rappoport discussed her attendance at a workshop on Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Standards with Los Angeles County Arts Commission last week. She stated that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission has been at the forefront of trying to integrate VAPA standards in Los Angeles County school districts and that guidelines for Supervisor Knabe's Arts Education Partnership Grant Program have been modified to focus on VAPA standards. She stated that the application for next year's grant will request funds to expand the Stories in Art Program and to hire an arts education specialist to review lesson plans to insure that the materials are in line with VAPA standards.

8B. CANCEL DECEMBER MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved that the Commission go dark in December 2009. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners and staff selected the following standing committee assignments and chairpersons:

Excellence in Arts Committee: Commissioners Candioly (Chair), Miranda, and Rische.

Facilities Committee: Commissioners Miranda (Chair), Strehler, Endo-Roberts, and Candioly (alternate).

Grant Review Committee: Commissioners Endo-Roberts (Chair), Bunting, and Smisek.

9A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

No report.

9B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

9C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for September 2009 was included in agenda materials. She distributed the Proclamation for Arts and Humanities Month and a Certificate of Recognition for the four-year anniversary of TAM. She stated that the Commission's Annual Report would be accepted at the October 20, 2009 City Council meeting. She was pleased to announce that TAM received a \$1,000 donation from Gerald Ronan.

Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell provided information about TAM's volunteer luncheon on October 19, 2009.

11. ORALS

11A. Commissioner Bunting discussed the Power of Art opening.

11B. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed "The Dixie Swim Club," Gustavo Dudamel at the Hollywood Bowl, the TAM anniversary party, and a visit to the Huntington Library.

11C. Commissioner Candioly stated that he enjoyed the TAM anniversary party and commended Performing Arts Specialist Inferred for the success of her productions.

11D. Commissioner Rische discussed the play "August; Osage County."

11E. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she enjoyed a trip to Washington, the TAM anniversary party, and a tribute to the Nikei Hit Parade. She announced the Almost Great Pumpkin Street Fair in Old Torrance on October 22, 2009.

11F. Chairperson Miranda discussed the recent typhoons and landslides in the Philippines and Southern California concerts to raise funds for relief efforts.

11G. Hope Witkowsky stated that she enjoyed "The Dixie Swim Club" and the Torrance Symphony gala concert. She also attended Power of Art and suggested that, even though tickets are free, people attending Torrance Symphony concerts should pick them up earlier.

11H. Penny Kastagir announced that she is selling 2010 calendars for the Torrance Symphony's 25th year.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:03 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, November 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Miranda so ordered.

Approved as Amended November 16, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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