

**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, July 20, 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, Strehler, and Chairperson Miranda.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport.

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 Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved for the approval of the June 15, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Rische abstaining).

6. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6A. JASON HAN, GETTY INTERN

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport regrettably informed Commissioners that Jason Han was unable to attend this meeting due to illness. She described his background and some of his responsibilities at Torrance Art Museum this summer that include training docents, doing research, and helping install artwork.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. DRAFT "GIFTS, ACQUISITIONS AND LOANS OF ARTWORK" POLICY

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport presented a draft policy in the material of record through which the City would accept gifts, acquisitions, and loans of artwork. She stated that the policy is adapted from one that she wrote for the City of Glendale and requested that Commissioners review the draft and provide input. She noted that this is a common problem for cities and that there are sometimes cost and storage implications.

Commissioner Bunting recommended separating the loan policy and donation policy into two different documents. She suggested clearly outlining the terms of accepting loans and including a "Deed of Gift" with donation forms.

In response to Commissioner Candioly's inquiry, Commissioner Bunting stated that a decision to accept artwork should be based on aesthetics and what the City needs and not on valuation, adding that donors should obtain official appraisals for their own tax purposes.

Commissioner Bunting recommended that staff initially decide if a gift, donation, or loan should be accepted before bringing it to the Commission and Cultural Services Manager Rappoport responded that in all fairness Commissioners should decide whether or not to recommend acceptance to City Council.

Commissioners suggested minor revisions and Cultural Services Manager Rappoport advised that the policy would be reviewed by the City Attorney and Risk Manager prior to being brought back to the Commission for final approval at the September 2009 meeting.

7B. DONATION OF "DREAMING OF THE KISS" TO CITY OF TORRANCE

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport presented an offer from former Mayor Dan Walker to donate a bronze sculpture by artist Kim Kori. She requested that Commissioners concur with staff recommendation to approve the donation and make a recommendation accordingly to City Council. She stated that Miramar Park, Wilson Park, and Madrona Marsh Preserve are being considered as possible sites for the sculpture and that the Cultural Arts and Parks and Recreation Commissions would jointly determine the permanent location at a later date.

Commissioner Strehler recommended placing the sculpture in the garden behind the Nature Center at Madrona Marsh Preserve.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to recommend acceptance of the donation of "Dreaming of the Kiss" to the City of Torrance. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for June 2009 was included in agenda material. She distributed fliers for upcoming events and stated that the Torrance Art Museum opening of South Bay Watercolor Society and Cultural Services faculty on July 11, 2009 was well attended.

Commissioner Strehler relayed comments from the community that the Torrance Art Museum (TAM) has too much “cutting edge” artwork and not enough local artists’ work being shown. She stated that the Strategic Plan emphasizes community work and not outside artists and that art students should also have the opportunity to display their work. She noted that South Bay Watercolor Society and Torrance Artists Guild have been informed that TAM will no longer be exhibiting their work once a year and that they will need to compete with other artists for a juried show.

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport responded that the Strategic Plan was never approved by the Commission or anyone else and was written before TAM opened, that Curator Presneill has not curated anything yet so it is premature to judge, and that Curator Presneill is proposing to have a South Bay regional exhibition that will include all local groups and not just those two groups.

Commissioner Strehler expressed support for a South Bay regional exhibition but stated that the South Bay Watercolor Society and Torrance Artists Guild should be allowed to have their annual exhibition also.

10. ORALS

10A. Stephen West, Linda Drive, provided his background as a former Cultural Arts Commissioner, graphics instructor, and fine artist. He expressed concern about the Commission’s and City’s focus the past several years. He stated that high school and college art students should have the opportunity and experience to showcase their artwork for the community the same as drama, music, and dance students have. He stated that South Bay Watercolor Society and Torrance Artists Guild are professional groups, have donated monetary gifts to the City, and deserve the opportunity to share their artwork in the City.

Commissioner Candioly stated that the Commission has discussed hosting an event for youth elementary to college to present their work.

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport stated that Curator Presneill is working with Diane Reeves to plan an exhibition of her art students’ work.

It was decided to defer further discussion and to place an item on the next Commission meeting agenda.

10B. Commissioner Bunting stated that she enjoyed visiting Getty, Otis, and Huntington Art Museums.

10C. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed “Music Man” at the Norris Theatre, “Porgy and Bess” at the Hollywood Bowl, and a trip to Colorado.

10D. Commissioner Candioly shared information about a production of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” and an artist presentation in Long Beach.

10E. Commissioner Rische apologized for being absent at the last Commission meeting.

10F. Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed serving on the Youth Council selection committee, a South Bay Watercolor Society reception, and Grants Pass Museum of Art in Oregon.

10G. Chairperson Miranda discussed a Boz Skaggs concert and Joey Quinto fundraiser.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:06 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Miranda so ordered.

Approved as Submitted September 21, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
