DRAFT

Newport Beach City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2015 – 5:00 PM
City Council Chambers

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Goldberg called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Rita Goldberg, Chair
Arlene Greer, Vice Chair
Caroline Logan, Secretary
Lynn Selich (Arrived at 5:07 pm)
Robert Smith
Charles Ware

Commissioner Absent: Judy Chang

Staff Present: Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director
Dave Curtis, Library Services Manager
Elaine McMillion, Administrative Support Specialist

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Mosher, Newport Beach resident, commended the Arts Commission on Items B2 through B4; for bringing those items from the Subcommittees to the regular agenda. Regarding B1, he referenced Policy B11 (having a central place in which to honor fallen Safety Officers), and stated that it never materialized. He reported that maintenance seems to be an issue and noted that the Ben Carlson statue should be placed near the new Life Guard Headquarters so that it will have the constant attention of the Life Guards and ensuring that it is well maintained. He spoke about Sphere 112 adding that it is in need of maintenance. Regarding the design of the Ben Carlson statue, he stated that less is more and hoped that would be considered.

Miriam Baker, Newport Beach resident and sculptor of the Ronald Reagan statue, commented on the Ben Carlson statue and understood that it would be machine-manufactured. She stated that doing so does not give life and feeling to a work of art and proposed that the item be put out to bid to actual sculptors, as was done for the Reagan sculpture. Though, she does feel that they should do a sculpture for him.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DRAFT Minutes – February 12, 2015

Motion made by Secretary Logan, seconded by Vice Chair Greer, and carried (5-0-0-2) to approve the minutes of February 12, 2015.

AYES: Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Smith, Ware
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: Chang, Selich

V. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Correspondence and Press - *Review of any Arts Commission correspondence and/or marketing materials that have been received.*

2. Financial Report - *Review of attached financial information*.

3. Cultural Arts Activities - *Monthly review of cultural arts activities from the Library Administrative Office for upcoming Library and City arts events and services.*

Motion made by Vice Chair Greer, seconded by Secretary Logan, and carried (5-0-0-2) to approve the Consent Calendar.

AYES:	Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Smith, Ware
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Chang, Selich

Commissioner Selich arrived at 5:07pm.

B. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Ben Carlson Foundation memorial sculpture donation - *The City Arts Commission will be asked to recommend City Council acceptance of the Ben Carlson Foundation donation of a memorial sculpture.*

As Chair of the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Committee, Vice Chair Greer reported that the Fine Arts Subcommittee is unanimously recommending to the Arts Commission, to recommend to City Council to accept the Ben Carlson Foundation donation of a memorial sculpture.

Chair Goldberg indicated that at this juncture, the Commission is being asked to recommend the concept and that specifics are not included in the recommendation.

Motion made by Vice Chair Greer that the Arts Commission recommend City Council's acceptance of the donation from the Ben Carlson Foundation of a memorial statue. It is further requested that Council waive Council Policy B-11 and that in accordance with City Council Policy I-9, that there be collaboration with City Council and the Arts Commission on site placement of the statue. The Committee is also requesting that there be periodic updates to the Arts Commission from the Ben Carlson Foundation, as to the work on the statue as it progresses.

Discussion followed regarding collaboration with the Arts Commission in terms of site placement, setting and design.

Library Services Director Tim Hetherton stated that it would be appropriate for an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to be created in order to identify potential sites and working in conjunction with City stakeholders such as the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission, the Life Guard Division, and City Council.

It was noted that the recommendation being made does not include a role for the Arts Commission.

Vice Chair Greer stated that the Arts Commission and the Fine Arts Committee, at this point, pursuant to previous presentations, and included in the report, has been vetted as a City application for a donation and the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviews the donation application. She added that review of the specific application was completed and the recommendation is solid. She hoped to collaborate with City Council regarding placement and understands that as the statue progresses, there will be collaboration between the Arts Commission, City Council and the Ben Carlson Foundation.

Library Services Director Hetherton reported that the staff report specifies collaboration between those stakeholders. He added that there have been two sites that have been considered, including the Newport Pier and the Balboa Pier.

It was noted that the matter will be coming back to the Arts Commission regarding placement of the statue after a joint review.

Library Services Director Hetherton recommended reforming the Art Site Suitability Ad Hoc Subcommittee tonight in case there is an upcoming meeting to evaluate possible sites.

Chair Goldberg suggested reactivating the Art Site Suitability Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Discussion followed regarding the fundraising aspect and the need to be mindful of the timing for building the statue and installing same. The Fine Arts Ad Hoc Committee would like a report, on a regular basis, regarding the progress of fundraising.

Ensuing discussion pertained to supporting Miriam Baker's recommendation that creation of the sculpture is done by an artist rather than machine-made.

Secretary Logan recommended putting production of the statue out to bid which would also help in formulating a cost.

It was noted that the Arts Commission could advise the Ben Carlson Foundation to be open-minded in this regard.

Chair Goldberg reported she recently visited an art show in New York that was filled with technology-generated art and noted that the pieces were compelling and provocative. She added that it is good to be open-minded in terms of other offers and opportunities.

Substitute Motion made by Secretary Logan, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to request that the Ben Carlson Foundation put production of the sculpture out to bid to determine what sculptors might do with their interpretations. No vote was taken at this point.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Ben Carlson Foundation has reviewed the present recommendations, what other artists may do to interpret a piece and portraying the warmth exhibited by Ben Carlson.

Chair Goldberg asked a representative of the Ben Carlson Foundation, forward.

Jake Janz and Josh Yocam approached the public comment podium. Jake Janz, Ben Carlson's brother-in-law, Ben Carlson Foundation Member and Artist, agreed with the need for the statue to portray warmth. He added that he does not believe anyone else is more fitting to take on the project, than himself, in honor of his brother-in-law. He listed his qualifications and noted that one

of the main goals apart from the statue is the promotion and education of ocean safety. He commented on technology versus traditional sculpture, noted this has been vetted with various well-known sculptors, and reported that the project will be self-funded through the Foundation and that he is receiving no payment as the artist. He stressed that what Ben did, was representative of what Life Guards do, every day, however it took his life. He is working from Ben's images and keeping the piece, simplified, as much as possible.

Chair Goldberg commented positively on technology-based art.

Commissioner Ware noted there is a deep and symbolic commitment between Ben and Jake that should not be broken and that the medium, material and fabrication process should be left to the prerogative of the Ben Carlson Foundation.

Josh Yocam commented on the vetting process and noted that the Foundation has received constructive input since it very beginning. He commented on a bidding process and stated that at this stage, he feels that the community is in full support with the Foundation's plans.

Commissioner Smith commented on the precedent set with the Reagan statue, which was also self-funded and expressed concerns that Jake's concept is just one artist's interpretation. He wondered if a donor specifying what he/she wants would result in the best way or the ultimate product for the City. He reiterated his assertion that the process needs to be put out to bid.

Discussion followed regarding new mediums, unknown issues and a timeline for fundraising.

Commissioner Selich has no problem with new media and requested a regular report, from the Ben Carlson Foundation regarding fundraising efforts.

Vice Chair Greer suggested amending the original motion.

Chair Goldberg addressed the substitute motion made previously by Secretary Logan and asked for a vote.

Amended Substitute Motion made by Secretary Logan, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to request that the Ben Carlson Foundation put production of the sculpture out to bid to determine what sculptors might do with their interpretations and periodic updates as to work and fundraising on the statue, as it progresses. The Amended Substitute Motion failed (2-4-0-1).

AYES:	Logan, Smith
NOES:	Goldberg, Greer, Ware, Selich
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Chang

Chair Goldberg commented on differences in the process of this statue and the Reagan statue. She added that she is satisfied with the recommendations of the Foundation and that this will be a good example of representational art in the City.

The original motion was restated.

Motion by Vice Chair Greer and seconded by Commissioner Ware, to recommend to City Council to accept the Ben Carlson Foundation donation of a memorial sculpture. It is further requested that Council waive Council Policy B-11 and that in accordance with City Council Policy I-9, that there be collaboration with City Council and the Arts Commission on the site placement of the statue. The

Committee is also requesting that there be periodic updates to the Arts Commission from the Ben Carlson Foundation, as to the work on the statue, and fundraising as it progresses. The motion carried (5-0-1-1).

AYES: Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Selich, Ware
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: Smith
ABSENT: Chang

Commissioner Ware added that the heart and soul of this process is in its coming from friends and family of Ben Carlson.

Discussion followed regarding the approval of the Okazaki statue donation which was similar to the Ben Carlson statue.

Chair Goldberg thanked Josh Yocam and Jake Janz as they left the public comment podium.

2. Sphere 112 Sculpture - *The City Arts Commission will be asked to review the cost to install a sculpture to replace the existing piece that is rusting.*

Commissioner Smith added that the new piece, proposed by the artist, is a more-finished base, would be more permanent, and which the Arts Foundation is interested in purchasing and donating to the City. He recommended approving $1,600 to come out of the Professional Services budget.

Discussion followed regarding reinforcing the dire requirement to have extremely weather-resistant pieces submitted. It was noted that it is not necessary as most pieces are on temporary loan to the City.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Vice Chair Greer, to approve $1,600 from the professional services budget, assuming the artist will remake the Sphere 112 sculpture using stainless steel 316, known as marine grade steel, at his own cost, install the piece and remove the other piece. The motion carried (6-0-0-1).

AYES: Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Selich, Smith, Ware
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: Chang

Commissioner Smith further noted that the Arts Foundation is very interested in purchasing and donating this this piece to the City.

3. Concert on the Green - *Staff recommends that the City Arts Commission approve the Kelly Rae Band for an August 23rd performance on the Civic Green.*

Chair Goldberg presented staff's recommendation that the Arts Commission approve the Kelly Rae Band, a country music band for the August 23rd performance on the Civic Green. She stated that the band plays Country music, which would be a nice addition.

Motion by Chair Goldberg and seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Kelly Rae Band for the August 23, 2015 performance on the Civic Green. The motion carried (6-0-0-1).

AYES: Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Selich, Smith, Ware

NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: Chang

4. Exhibition of Art in Central Library - *The Fine Arts Ad Hoc Sub Committee requests that the City Arts Commission approve exhibitions of works from the City Art collection and a selection of works by Charlotte Lerner.*

Vice Chair Greer reported that the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee met and approved Charlotte Lerner's art for exhibit in the Central Library. She added that a date has not been decided yet.

Motion by Vice Chair Greer and seconded by Secretary Logan, to approve the exhibition of works from the City Art Collection and work by artist Charlotte Lerner. The motion carried (6-0-0-1).

AYES: Goldberg, Greer, Logan, Selich, Smith, Ware
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: Chang

C. MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Newport Beach Sculpture Garden Ad Hoc Subcommittee - *Commissioner Robert Smith (Chair), Chair Rita Goldberg, Commissioner Charles Ware*

Commissioner Smith reported that the artist of the sculpture *Red*, Jonathan Prince, has been having difficulty restoring the piece and is still interested and prepared to do it, but the piece would not be brought to the site until late, April. The pad has been poured and the City has paid an advance on the piece.

Additionally, he reported that a second phase of another ten sculptures will be installed and the Sculpture Garden Ad Hoc Subcommittee is meeting with senior staff and with Arts OC to review placement and other matters. More information will be provided at the next Arts Commission meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported that the Arts Foundation is prepared to do quarterly walks of the Sculpture Garden and commented on the possibility of docent tours, with possibly the first tour planned to be held the same day as the Arts Exhibition in June.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of *Red* staying longer since it will not be installed until late April, the possibility of having a third phase and needing that space, and the need to amend the contract if placement of *Red* is extended.

Commissioner Smith will confer with the artist and report back to the Commission.

2. Civic Center Art Placement Ad Hoc Subcommittee - *Secretary Caroline Logan (Chair), Commissioner Charles Ware*

Secretary Logan reported that art collector Gene Crain frequently bought the best of Rex and Joan Brandt's paintings and recently donated two of their water colors to the City. Mr. Crain requested that they be hung in the Central Library.

Vice Chair Greer noted that she will address the matter, as it is a Fine Arts application.

Secretary Logan noted that several pieces of art are in storage but will be considered for placement by the Civic Center Art Placement Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Chair Goldberg commented on examples of suspended art and stated that would be great for the Civic Center.

Secretary Logan agreed and stated that with the new Council Members, the Arts Commission may be in a better position to forge ahead.

Discussion followed regarding the application and acceptance process for donated art and the appropriate Subcommittees involved.

Chair Goldberg reported that the Civic Center Art Placement Ad Hoc Subcommittee was created specifically to bring art to the Civic Center. She added that the Library has a lot of art and that City Hall is the priority relative to this Subcommittee.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of walking the Library to determine appropriate places for the donated Brandt pieces and making sure that the donor's wishes are respected. It continued regarding the need for better communication and whether the Civic Center Subcommittee's purview includes or does not include the Central Library.

Chair Goldberg noted it was never her intent to have the Central Library included in the purview of the Civic Center Art Placement Ad Hoc Subcommittee. She added that historically, the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee dealt with art in the Library.

Discussion followed regarding the need for Subcommittees to collaborate and communicate the differences between placing and handling temporary and permanent art. It was noted that there may be some overlap between this Subcommittee and the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee. It was suggested that Chair Goldberg meet with the Chairs of both Subcommittees to clarify the duties and responsibilities of each as well as handling travelling versus permanent exhibits.

3. Arts Master Plan Steering Committee - *Chair Rita Goldberg (Chair) , Vice Chair Arlene Greer, Secretary Caroline Logan*

Chair Goldberg stated this Committee is currently on hold.

4. Arts Foundation Liaison Ad Hoc Subcommittee - *Commissioner Robert Smith*

Commissioner Smith provided an overview of a recent meeting of the Arts Foundation where it pledged to support the upcoming Newport Beach Art Exhibition. The Foundation will be doing quarterly tours of the Sculptures in the Park on Saturdays at 10:00am, starting with the Art Exhibition in June. He added that the Foundation will meet on April 21, 2015, at the Jamie Brooks Gallery and that invitations will be sent to each Art Commissioner.

He added that the Arts Foundation develops corporate and private relationships that could generate funds for Art and Culture in the City.

Chair Goldberg reported meeting with two Foundation Members who expressed interest in creating a new performing arts program and asked regarding the status.

Commissioner Smith provided a status update and that the Arts Foundation after discussing had decided they would focus on raising funds for what the Arts Commission is doing and promoting arts and culture in the City.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of generating some collateral material or donation envelops that could be handed out during docent tours to help people understand how they could support plans for the inclusion of arts in the community. Commissioner Smith will take this back to the Arts Foundation.

Commissioner Smith asked to be excused from the meeting.

5. Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee - *Vice Chair Arlene Greer (Chair), Commissioners Judy Chang and Lynn Selich*

Vice Chair Greer reported that this Subcommittee has met twice since the last Arts Commission meeting and referenced approval of Charlotte Lerner's piece and Ben Carlson's statue. She added that the Subcommittee reviewed an application from Joe Lewis, former Dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at University of California Irvine, who submitted work that the Subcommittee will ask to be added to the agenda. The Subcommittee also reviewed work from Bea Riley and asked that it too, be added to the agenda.

Vice Chair Greer commented on the Joan Irving Brandt Centennial Celebration and provided an update of efforts, so far.

She provided a report on the Newport Beach Art Exhibition and addressed members of that Subcommittee noting that the Newport Beach Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee was reactivated at a prior Arts Commission meeting. It will need to be listed in the Monthly Reports going forward. She addressed publicity, calls for artists, brochures and distribution of same as well as expansion, entry fees and responses received. She addressed an online registration process and the publicity plan.

Discussion followed regarding capacity, the need for organizational structure, the possibility of having booths, providing a site plan for placement, dates for accepting art and emphasizing the purchase or art. Additional information will be provided at the next Arts Commission meeting.

6. Performing Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee - *Chair Rita Goldberg, Commissioners Arlene Greer and Lynn Selich*

Chair Goldberg reported that the line-up has been completed for the summer.

Discussion followed regarding publicity along Pacific Coast Highway and placement of banners and it was noted that additional information will be available at next month's meeting of the Arts Commission.

7. Cultural Arts Collaboration Subcommittee - *Lynn Selich (Chair), Arlene Greer and Judy Chang*

Commissioner Selich reported that she is working on a presentation and securing a date for art experts, donors, supporters and organizations to meet and discuss the importance of the arts in the community.

VI. CITY ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

Vice Chair Greer requested adding donation of art from Diane and Gene Crane to the Arts Commission agenda in April.

Additionally, she requested the addition of art donations from Joe Lewis and Bea Riley to be exhibited in the Central Library.

Library Services Director Tim Hetherton noted previously asking to seek a quote for the restoration of the *Seagulls Flight* and stated having difficulty finding someone to do the work. He asked that the matter be placed on next month's agenda.

Chair Goldberg requested scheduling the April meeting of the Arts Commission on Thursday, April 2, as she will be out of town on April 9.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Mosher reminded the Commission that its many Subcommittees have to have a definite goal or purpose that can be completed within a finite time. He suggested that the Commission memorialize the purpose of each Subcommittee. He commented on matters that need to be discussed in a public forum, and decided on, and that they should be put on an agenda. He noted that the Commission is not playing by the correct rules.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 6:36pm

Submitted by: _____