MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, June 17, 2010
Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Terry Acebo-Davis, Elise Griffin DeMarzo, Ally Richter,
Michael Smit, Nancy Coleman
Commissioners absent: Larisa Usich
Staff present: Kelly Morariu, Assistant to the City Manager and Staff
Liaison to the Commission
Darlene Katsanes, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair DeMarzo.

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

MINUTES – Commissioners reviewed minutes.
Motion: Approve minutes of May 20, 2010 as corrected.
Moved: Acebo-Davis; Seconded: Richter: Ayes: Unanimous.

FINANCE REPORT – Commission reviewed the budget. Commissioners asked that they be
given advance notice of the fiscal year-end budget close in April or May next year.

ACTION

MAN PUSHING CAT IN STROLLER - Commissioner DeMarzo asked the Commission for $500
for artist Greg Brown to paint new color border around mural figure and repair mural at
281University Avenue. Restoration Hardware is planning to repaint the building. Greg Brown
plans to paint a 3-inch color border around the mural figure using the new building color and
repair the graffiti. Brown’s painting around the mural figure will protect the mural. The painters
can then paint the rest of the building.
Motion: Allocate $500 for artist Greg Brown to paint new color border around mural figure
and repair mural.

FILE MAKER PRO – Request by Commissioner DeMarzo for $300 to purchase a software
upgrade from File Maker Pro 8 to File Maker Pro 10. The upgrade from File Maker Pro 8 to 10
will keep the software used for the Art Collection database updated and keep all versions of File
Maker Pro used by Art Center staff consistent. Morariu commented that File Maker Pro is not a
City supported software program. Commissioner Richter recommended that Commissioners may
want to research getting the best price for this software.
Motion: Allocate up to $300 for purchase of File Maker Pro 10 software upgrade.

NON-ACTION

DIGITAL DNA – Commissioner Coleman reported that the downtown business group is happy
to have Digital DNA moved off the plaza. The downtown business group is interested in the
Commission’s idea of having temporary art sited there. At the site meeting on May 26 the group reviewed the condition of the artwork. Commissioner Coleman stated that Digital DNA is continuing to deteriorate. She commented that it is better to leave Digital DNA sited until another artwork is ready to replace it. Commissioner Coleman reported that they talked about budget with the Downtown group and they don’t have any funds for the art. She asked that temporary art and fundraising be placed on next month’s agenda. Morariu agreed with Commissioner Coleman that the PAC needs to move ahead with planning to replace the sculpture and that temporary art and fundraising should be added to next month’s agenda. Commissioner Smit reported that the Downtown Business Group want a clear idea about what temporary art will be placed and what the footprint will be. Commissioner Coleman stated that time is of the essence before approvals for vendors carts are in place for Lytton Plaza. Barbara Gross, Chop Keenan and Sunny Dykewl want to be kept in the information loop about what the Commission plans for this site. Commissioner Richter asked that the Commission review and prioritize their projects.

Council liaison Espinosa arrived at the meeting at 7:44 pm.

MITCHELL PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER – Commissioner DeMarzo spoke about the Mitchell Park “sign breaking” event that celebrated the beginning of the deconstruction process on June 12. DeMarzo reported that artist proposals were reviewed on June 1 and three finalists were identified for the Mitchell Park Library Entry Way art. The selection panel will convene on Friday, June 18 to review the finalists’ expanded proposals and select the project artist. Morariu reported that the mural selection panel is tentatively scheduled for June 28. She stated that the selection panel reviewing the mural applications will include three teen members from the Teen Advisory Board, a Library Advisory Commissioner, a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Public Art Commission subcommittee, and staff. The bollard selection panel will be scheduled in July. Morariu reported that she is preparing a staff report for the Mitchell Park Art to go to Council with the construction contract. Council liaison Espinosa spoke about the future reopening of the Mitchell Park Library/Community Center in 2012. He suggested it would be a good opportunity for the Commission to connect with community members excited about the new building and artwork to plant a seed for future public art projects. Commissioner Coleman stated that the original Mitchell Park subcommittee may want to work on the event.

ARTWORK ON PALO ALTO SHUTTLE BUSES – Morariu reported that she met with City Manager Jim Keene, former Mayor Jim Burch, and Curtis Williams, Planning Director, to discuss the shuttle bus concept and moving it forward. She said that this approval process doesn’t need the same approval process as the original project. Morariu stated that Burch is committed to the project and plans to follow-up with fundraising. Commissioner Richter asked what Burch needs from the Commission. Morariu stated that Burch needs nothing unless the Commission is willing to contribute project funds and act in an advisory role. Espinosa asked about the project timeline, and suggested that the Commission work on publicity for this project to get the word out about public art. Morariu will report out on this next month if there is anything new to report.

MAIN LIBRARY REVIEW OF SCHEMATIC DESIGN – Commissioner DeMarzo reported that she and Commissioner Smit met with Library Director Diane Jennings regarding this project. They reviewed the recommended spaces for public art at the Main Library. Group 4, the project architects, will continue to expand the drawings in July and August. Commissioner DeMarzo stated that it makes more sense to send out a RFQ instead of a RFP. Identifying an artist using the RFQ process allows an artist to work with the architect to incorporate art into the building in the early planning stages. DeMarzo said that Diane Jennings, Library Director, will talk with Group 4 to see how they feel about a RFQ process. Commissioner Smit agreed that a RFQ would be a
great way to strategize art for the building. Smit recommended the Library ceiling as a potential site for art. Commissioner Coleman advocated for the inclusion of 2-dimensional art space.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE FOUNTAIN RFP – Morariu reported that this project is on hold until the fall. Staff will send an email to all applicants to alert them about the project delay.

Commissioner Coleman suggested that the Commission consider planning a parade down California Avenue to the fountain as part of the opening reception for the fountain in spring 2011. Council liaison Espinosa suggested holding the opening on a Sunday to take advantage of the critical mass at the Farmers Market.

INSURANCE – Morariu addressed the answers to the questions raised by Commissioners regarding the insurance policy at the last meeting. This commercial general liability policy covers bodily injury and property damage occurring during the policy period. Deductible is $500 per claim. Up to five artists can be covered by this policy per year. Each artist represents one of the five artists that can be covered in any one policy year. An artist team uses two or more of the available five coverage slots annually. Commissioners discussed the need to involve the community in keeping a watchful eye out for any vandalism to the City’s art collection. Council liaison Espinosa spoke about setting a strategy to highlight public art by setting a schedule to create a few press releases each year on public art. Commissioner Coleman asked for assistance from Katsanes and Linda Clerkson. Commissioners were asked to send content suggestions for these press releases to Katsanes and she will then forward these suggestions to Commissioners Coleman and Usich to flesh out.

MAINTENANCE OF CITY COLLECTION – Commissioner DeMarzo shared a draft collection statement with Commissioners asking for their input. She asked Commissioners to send any revisions or comments to Katsanes regarding this draft statement. The collection statement will be on the agenda next month under action. The idea for the creation of a collection statement originated when Cubberley artists asked Karen Kienzle for clarification about what the collection focus is. Morariu stated that Cubberley artists are required to donate an artwork to the City during their five year term at Cubberley as a condition of their lease agreement. Commissioners Richter and Acebo-Davis declared that they want to participate on the next jury panel for selecting Cubberley artists. Morariu stated that she will ask Karen Kienzle to attend the next Commission meeting to talk about the Cubberley artist studios process. Katsanes reported that the reshoot of some of the collection photography will occur next week. She is also arranging for art installations to occur at Lucie Stern, Police Department, and at the Municipal Service Center. With the closure of Mitchell Park Community Center during the construction process, the 2-dimentional artwork sited there had to be returned to storage at the Art Center. The wood giraffe sculpture will be moved to the temporary teen center at Cubberley. Morariu gave an update on copyright issues.

FILAREE – Morariu reported that she spoke with Greg Betts, CSD Department Head, and learned that there may be dollars available from the park development process to ask the contractor to create a new base for Filaree and make arrangements to relocate Filaree from the MSC to Greer Park.

BILL BLISS – Morariu reported that staff is waiting to receive the ARB application materials from artist James Moore in order to calendar the project with the ARB. Morariu stated that she has communicated with the Bliss family about this project.

BROCHURE – Item tabled.
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION WEBSITE AND CONTENT – Commissioner Coleman reported that programming of the website continues, and that Commissioner Usich has asked Mayer to plan to show the Commission the new website sublevels.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:


ANNOUNCEMENTS
Council liaison Espinosa announced that the San Jose Airport is about to hold an open house featuring four new public art pieces that meld technology and art.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner DeMarzo adjourned meeting at 8:45 pm.