

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 31, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Beverly Denenberg at 5:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present: Beverly Denenberg, Vice Chair
Ken Sherman
Michael Haibach
Jon Bailey
Madeleine Rackley
Whitney Weston

Staff Liaison: Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator/Staff Liaison
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds, Jr.

B. Posting of the Agenda

The agenda was posted per proper noticing procedures at City Hall, West Hollywood Park Auditorium, Plummer Park, West Hollywood Library, and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

C. Staff Comments on the Agenda

There were no comments from staff on the agenda.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sherman moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the January 31, 2008 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 27, 2007

Commissioner Rackley noted two corrections to the minutes of December 27 noting that Commissioner Denenberg's name was misspelled on the last page. She also noted and that she did not move that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the December meeting agenda or the November 29, 2007 meeting minutes because she arrived late to the meeting.

Staff will review the recording of the meeting and make changes accordingly.

Commissioner Bailey then moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the minutes of December 27, 2007 as amended.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was heard from Dan Berkowitz, West Hollywood resident and member of the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. Mr. Berkowitz announced a community screening of "10 More Good Years" a documentary addressing challenges of LGBT senior community. The movie will screen at the Ed Gould Plaza on March 18th. He also announced that the deadline to submit an application for the "Rainbow Key Award" is February 1, 2008.

Public comment was also heard from Tony Sanders, Artistic Director of Shine LA Youth Theatre who announced their upcoming musical production of "Charlottes Web" on February 16th and March 9th at West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT – July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

The Commission received and filed the July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 Art and Beautification Fund Revenue and Expenditure Status Report. It was the consensus of the Commission that staff provide them with a simplified version of the report at the February meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Chair

Staff informed the Commission that due to the resignation of Lyn DeSheilds as Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission in January and in accordance with Section 3 "Organization of the Commission" of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Bylaws, the Commission shall elect from its membership a Chair, who shall preside over Commission meetings." The Chair would complete the remaining term.

Vice Chair Denenberg opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Bailey nominated Vice Chair Denenberg to fill the vacancy of Commission Chair followed by a motion that the Commission elect her as chair.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Denenberg hearing no other closed the floor for nominations and called for the vote.

The Commission unanimously elected Vice Chair Denenberg as the Chair of the Commission. Her term will expire July 2008.

B. Election of Vice Chair

Staff introduced the item informing the Commission that in accordance with ACAC Bylaws the Commission shall elect a Vice-Chair, who shall preside in the absence of the Chair."

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair and nominated Commissioner Ken Sherman. Hearing no other nominations, she closed the

floor for nominations and moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission elect Commissioner Ken Sherman as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Bailey seconded motion, and the Commission unanimously elected Commissioner Ken Sherman as Vice Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. General Plan Update

The Commission received and filed a written update from staff on the General Plan, pursuant to Council's request that a standing item be added to all board and commission agendas.

Andrew Campbell, Arts and Cultural Affairs Administrator and Staff Liaison to the Commission announced that he will lead a panel on art and culture at the General Plan Community Fair on February 23.

B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on their meeting held January 31, 2008.

Subcommittee Chair Beverly Denenberg reported that the Subcommittee debriefed about the installation of "Empyrean Passage" by Dan Corson and the artist reception. Members of the Subcommittee felt the event was highly successful receiving great media coverage from local television stations. She also reported that the Subcommittee received an update from staff on the "Women in the City" art project. The video art titled "Plenty Should be Enough" by Barbara Kruger will be installed in February. Staff will work with Administrative Services staff on interfacing this project with activities planned for Women's History Month. Additionally, the Subcommittee received a progress report on the Mark di Suvero/Rikrit Tiravanija "Peace Tower" exhibition. She commented that di Suvero seems amiable about bringing the "Peace Tower" to West Hollywood. Finally, the Subcommittee discussed potential new exhibition projects that might include works by Peter Shire, a project similar in concept to "Salon de Refuser" and "The Mayor's Art Show". She concluded her report commenting that the February 28th meeting of the Art on the Outside Subcommittee has been canceled and that the next meeting will be March 27, 2008.

C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on their meeting held January 10, 2008.

Subcommittee Chair Jon Bailey reported that the Subcommittee reviewed and discussed a staff report that identified several potential signature events for Pride 2008 that included "Outlaugh – America's Queer Comedy Festival", "Talk About Jazz" with Fred Hersh, "Going In: Once Upon a Time in South Africa and

"An Evening of LGBT Animation" and possibly a panel discussion with Mark Thompson and/or George C. Wolf. A

After viewing recommendations outlined in the Council approved Christopher Street West Task Force Report that called for extending Pride to incorporate a month-long series of art and cultural events that celebrate the creativity and diversity of the LGBT community, the subcommittee felt that it would be in the best interest of the City/Commission to focus on LGBT Pride rather than broadening the definition to include "civic" pride. He concluded his report commenting that the Subcommittee continued to monitor its work plan that included the West Hollywood Book Fair, Russian Cultural Festival, Summers Sounds 08 and The Big Read.

Andrew Campbell, Arts and Cultural Affairs Administrator and Staff Liaison to the Commission commented that he spoke with one of the writers of the Logo hit animation series "Rick & Steve". The proposed event "An Evening of LGBT Animation with Rick & Steve" could possibly serve as a launch for their second season. Collaboration between the City and Logo might be possible as well. He concluded his comments noting that there are several arts grant funded programs and that celebrate Pride including Los Angeles Art Association's "Out There" and PEN's "West Hollywood Stories – Iconic Gay and Lesbian Oral Histories" that could be added as well. He also commented that he will meet with Chris Clarkin, member of the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and Christopher Street West in February to discuss collaboration opportunities.

D. Urban Art Subcommittee

There was no Urban Art Subcommittee meeting in January.

E. Committee Appointments

The Commission considered making an appointment to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee and the Art on the Outside Subcommittee due to the resignation of Commissioner Lyn DeShields who served on both subcommittees.

Commissioner Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the appointment of Commissioner Weston to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee.

Commissioner Rackley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair commented that the Art on the Outside Subcommittee is in need of an individual with expertise in visual arts and concurred with staff's suggestion that the Commission wait until Councilmember Guarriello makes his appointment before appointing a member to that subcommittee.

V. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair commented on the architectural design of the new West Hollywood Library indicating that the San Vicente side of the development housing the public

meeting space will be glass and adjacent to it will be a "take-out" coffee bar. She concluded her items commenting that she attended a meeting of board and commission chairs. At the meeting, she heard reports on practical matters relative to each board and commission.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

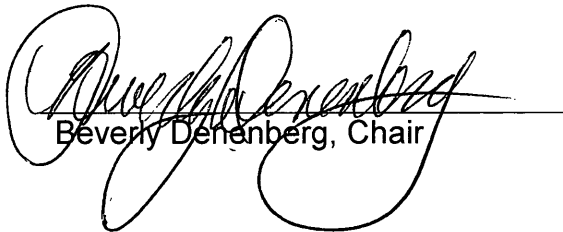
Commissioner Weston commented that she attended a Book Fair meeting. The Book Fair will be held September 28, 2008 at West Hollywood Park. The next meeting of Book Fair Committee is scheduled for February 20th.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

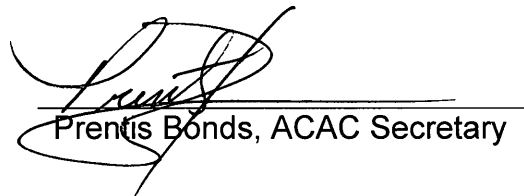
There were no additional items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 5:50 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.



Beverly Dehenberg, Chair



Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary