

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 23, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:10 PM.

A. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kaléh, Chair
Michael J. Haibach, Vice Chair
Ken Sherman
Lyn DeShields
Andrew Campbell

Excused: Jon Bailey
Beverly Denenberg

Liaison: Alison Maxwell

Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds

Also present: Bonnie Smith, Recreation Division; Brad Burlingame, West Hollywood Convention and Visitors Bureau; Vicki Banks and Gregory Gancey

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

Staff requested that New Business Item III A. "Matthew Shepherd Memorial" follow Unfinished Business Item II A. "Halloween Update".

The Commission concurred.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner DeShields moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the minutes of August 26, 2004. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Halloween Update

Bonnie Smith, the City's Festival and Events Specialist in the Recreation Division distributed a draft staff report to City Council

concerning this year's Halloween Carnaval and provided the Commission with an update on scheduled events.

Several events are scheduled to take place before Halloween on October 31. Events include a screening of "Hocus Pocus;" the doggie costume contest on October 23; the pumpkin carving contest on October 28; the youth Halloween Carnaval on October 29, and the drag race on October 30.

Brad Burlingame, President of the West Hollywood Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) outlined the approach to media relations and how the CVB is helping the City promote the event. He reported that Clear Channel is again the event's major sponsor, and is contracted to do 200 mentions.

Following brief comments from the Commission, Commissioners DeShields and Kaléh expressed interest in serving on an ad hoc committee to work with Ms. Smith and Mr. Burlingame on the future of West Hollywood Halloween Carnaval.

B. Study Session with City Council

The Commission finalized their presentation and discussion topics for the City Council study session.

C. Art on the Outside

Staff provided the Commission with an update on the Robert Indiana sculpture project.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Matthew Shepherd Memorial

Staff introduced the item. The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission was asked to review a proposal and consider accepting a donation of \$50,000.00 from Gregory Ganci for the design, construction and installation of a memorial sculpture of Matthew Shepherd. The proposal recommended placing the funds into an escrow account from which the City would manage the project, in accordance with Mr. Ganci's design wishes.

Mr. Ganci provided the Commission with computer generated images of the statue. He proposed a life-like, life-size, cast bronze statue of Matthew Shepherd that would express Mathew's vulnerability and defenselessness. The sculpture, to be designed and fabricated by artist Vicki Banks, would be set upon a base measuring about six feet for a total height of about eleven feet. The statue would be situated in the Matthew Shepherd Triangle at Santa Monica Boulevard and

Crescent Heights. Mr. Ganci also proposed that shrubs be planted around the base to prevent people touching the sculpture or vandalizing it.

Following comments from commissioners, Commissioner Haibach moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission decline the extremely generous gift of \$50,000.00 for the design, development and installation of a Matthew Shepherd memorial sculpture for the following reasons: 1) The City has already memorialized Matthew Shepherd by dedicated Crescent Heights Park to his memory; 2) that such a literal interpretation of the sculpture was too singularly focused and not inclusive of all victims of violence; and 3) the proposal lacked strong artistic merit. Commissioner DeShields seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

The Commission directed staff to agendize for discussion policy concerning momentary gifts to the city for specific arts and cultural affairs projects.

B. Russian Art Festival

The Commission reviewed a staff report prepared by Tatiana Rodzink, staff liaison to the Russian Advisory Board regarding the exhibition "Russian-American Art -2" to be held November 15 through December 15 with an official opening ceremony. The exhibition will commemorate the City's 20th Anniversary of incorporation and will include a fashion show and live entertainment at the opening ceremony. Staff recommended that the Commission endorse the project by making a recommendation that City Council sponsor the event

It was the consensus of the Commission to endorse the project and make a recommendation that the City Council sponsor the exhibition.

IV. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff informed the Commission that the November meeting of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission falls on Thanksgiving and that the City would be closed in observance of the holiday. Staff recommended that the Commission consider rescheduling the meeting or moving the November meeting forward as the Commission as done in the past.

It was the consensus of the Commission not to hold a meeting on Thursday, October 28 but to move the November meeting forward to Thursday, November 4, 2004, thus combining the October and November meetings.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chair.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

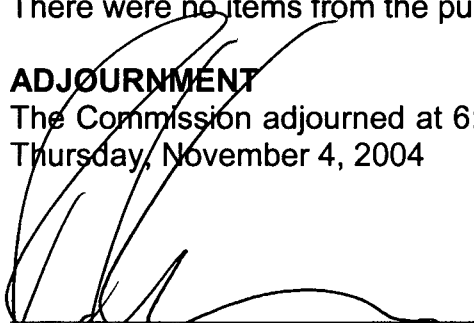
There were no additional items from the Commission

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


There were no items from the public

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2004



R. Kaléh Chair



Prentis Bonds, Secretary