

City Arts Commission Meeting

Monday, October 6, 2008

Minutes

In attendance were Robyn Grant, Jerry Allison, Wendy Brooks, Rita Goldberg and Robert Smith.

Robyn and the rest of the members in attendance welcomed Jerry Allison and express delight at his return. Jerry thanked the Board for its support and friendship.

Robyn formally called the meeting to order. No public members were in attendance. Robyn referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and asked board members if they had any comments.

Robert made the motion to approve the prior meeting's minutes. Wendy seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

The recently held Balboa Theater presentation was brought up. Robert noted that Jana had suggested the City Arts Commission should be more involved. Robyn noted that the facility finally seems poised to come to fruition but pointed out that it will have the goal of serving a broader region, serving residents of cities outside of Newport.

Committee Updates:

Library Artists

Robyn noted that the library is booked with artists for the coming year.

Summer Performances

Rita discussed preliminary plans for the summer concert series, noting that although the selection process had not yet begun, some new parameters had been suggested. The suggestions included holding at least one concert in the Newport Coast park, and selecting a consistent weekend(s) of the month for scheduling. The possibility of reducing the Shakespeare performance to one was also brought up for consideration. Robyn seemed to feel that the theatrical group may require a minimum of two performances to make it worth their while for stage set up etc.

Cultural Arts Center

Wendy expressed encouragement at the prospect of including a multi purpose facility in the new City Hall plans.

Newport Beach Arts Foundation

There was nothing to report from the foundation because the last meeting had been cancelled. There is an arts & crafts event scheduled for November 9th at Temple Bat Yahm.

Art in Public Spaces

Robert referred to Seattle's public art and cited it as a model example. The group's consensus was to encourage City Hall to designate a budget for outdoor art.

Robyn asked Jerry if he would like to be on the Cultural Arts Center Committee. Jerry said he would not be at the next two meetings and declined to accept the responsibility at this time. Robyn offered to revisit the assignment of his preferred committee slot after the first of the year.

City Hall Plans

Robert reported that The City will determine the selected architect by Thanksgiving. He noted that many of the preliminary plans submitted seemed to have artistic elements incorporated into the design. Plans included renderings of an amphitheater, multipurpose room, art gallery, and sculpture garden. The commission found this encouraging and decided to send a letter to City Council in support of maintaining these artistic elements in the final architectural plan. Rita volunteered to draft the first version of the letter which would then be passed around to all commissioners for input and edits.

Submitted by Rita Goldberg