

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 2009 at the Yale Art & Architecture Building, 180 York Street.

Members Present: Tia Blassingame, Dorreth Cole, Laurel Coniglio, Jennifer Delmonico, Robert Parker, Randi Rubin Rodriguez, Mimi G. Sommer, Dean Sakamoto. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell. **Members Absent:** Alderman Frances Clark, Suzette Franco-Camacho, Gabriela Campos-Matteson, William Denby, Perkins Foss, Sheila Murphy, Aleta Staton.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 6:40 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

J. Delmonico called for a motion to approve the December 2008 minutes. M.Sommer requested that “two” abstentions be added to the approval of the election of Commission Vice-Chair in the December minutes. L. Coniglio motioned to approve. Seconded by B. Parker. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Tree Lighting: OCA presented a successful and very well attended Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Green. Thursday, December 4.

Arts Advocacy: B. Lamb asked each member to continue to communicate the importance of the programs and offerings presented by OCA to their aldermen. Additionally OCA agreed to keep members informed about upcoming budget meetings so that they might attend to show their support or send e-mails of support to their aldermen.

Nine Squares Installation: A decision was made to postpone the summer 2009 production/installation of the Dehaemer project due to current economic conditions until possibly 2010. B. Lamb, and other select members of the jury recently met with the Joy Wolke team to explore the possibility of implementing a small portion of their proposal at reduced cost throughout downtown during the summer of 2009.

Future OCA Events: With budgetary figures in flux, OCA is awaiting confirmation as to whether or not to proceed with the planning of the fireworks display. IKEA has been identified as potential sponsor of the event.

OCA has been advised to begin planning the Summer Cycling Event at East Rock Park and a community block party for the Ninth Square area.

The guidelines and application are currently being revised for the Mayor’s Community Arts Grant Program.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Percent for Art Program: The scheduled final jury meeting to select an artist’s proposal for Roberto Clemente School was postponed to an illness of the Principal. The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date.

Unfortunately a delay in payment of Sam Weiner, the artist selected for the Bishop Woods School from the Board of Education School Construction’s Program has not only upset the artist, but placed OCA in an uncomfortable situation. B. Lamb is working with school construction representatives to prevent such delays in the future.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Worthington Hooker School Percent for Art: B. Lamb recently met with the project coordinator, architect, and Nancy Bowen, the artist selected for the projects to discuss the condition of the cement tiles placed in the old Worthington Hooker School. The floor tiles were fabricated from cement instead of ceramic at the suggestion of the architect and project manager, a material the artist had no familiarity working with, due to concerns about pedestrian slippage. These cement tiles have begun to crumble. The artist is considering how to repair/replace. For the new Worthington Hooker School, a new design utilizing the originally proposed ceramic tiles was proposed instead of the original proposal for floor tiles in the entryway. It was determined that the tiles would be installed in a free standing 6'x30' wall along an inner courtyard visible from the cafeteria and hallway. Commission members agreed with the new proposal.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, February 9th AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.