

5/11/11 SARC
minutes

40th
Anniversary

~~11/11/11~~

Hent#7

Public records requests and Sunshine Task Force items: Since July 1, 2011 to the present, 208.5 staff hours have been devoted to fulfilling public document requests and Sunshine Task Force items. This figure includes 22.5 hours since the last time reported to the Street Artists Committee a month ago. For the previous fiscal year (2009-2010), 153 hours were devoted to these tasks. In 2008-2009, 76 hours were devoted to these tasks.

Adjournment request: Mr. Lazar asked Chairman Chew if he would adjourn the meeting in honor of street artist Allen Frost who recently passed away. He was one of the very first street artists even before there was a Street Artists Program.

Advisory Committee Update: Member Mathew Porkola resigned from the Advisory Committee of Street Artists and Crafts Examiners and this leaves two vacancies since it is a five-member committee. Ms. Licouris and Mr. Lazar will start the process of informing the public and accepting resumes for these positions. The main requirement for applicants is that they must be arts and crafts people. Mr. Lazar will confer with the City Attorney on whether the interviewing process has changed. In answering a question of Commissioner Chew, Mr. Lazar will post information on the Arts Commission's website with details regarding compensation so it is not confused as a full-time position.

Commissioner Chew asked about a 40th anniversary update. Mr. Lazar stated that he hadn't heard of any news.

Commissioner Chew asked for public comment.

Street Artist Tad Sky reported on the 40th anniversary. There are 6 people from Justin Herman Plaza, he stated, who would like to help on the committee. Mr. Sky asked for a meeting to get started and to pick a date soon. There are other street artists interested from Justin Herman Plaza who have shown interest in helping but don't want to be on the committee.

Commissioner Chew commented that it would be appropriate to have the 40th anniversary event in conjunction with the 80th anniversary of the Arts Commission.

Street Artist Michael Addario stated that Mr. Lazar shouldn't be taking time to promote the 40th anniversary since it is not in his job description or in the ordinance. While Mr. Addario stated he believes that a celebration is a good idea, he stated there are other issues that need immediate attention such as contacting the Port to obtain spaces at the Wharf to replace the spaces to be lost during street re-construction. He also reminded the Commissioners that there needs to be a vote about the celebration. He suggested that Mr. Lazar could help with the 40th anniversary on his own time and that funds shouldn't come from the Street Artists account.

Commissioner Calloway stated adamantly that Mr. Lazar should be involved in the 40th anniversary.

Street Artist Maria Hillius disagreed with the statements of Mr. Addario. She stated that Mr. Lazar is the best person to help the street artists. If Mr. Addario doesn't agree with having Mr. Lazar help, she said, Mr. Addario should find and offer a replacement instead of just disagreeing.

Commissioner Calloway reminded all that if it's a 40th anniversary sponsored officially by the Arts Commission, a staff member from the Arts Commission needs to be involved at some level.

3. Discussion. Report by Street Artists Liaison Committee.

Liaison Committee Chairman Michael Addario reported about the Fisherman's Wharf issues regarding the F-line construction and the Jefferson Street project. The F-Line construction project will affect both Jefferson and Beach streets which reports say could occur before or after the America's Cup. This will seriously disrupt 50-100 spaces. Jefferson Street will be repaved and more of a pedestrian sidewalk will be added with less

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vehicular traffic. Also, stands will be placed at Aquatic park for the America's Cup. The Liaison Committee voted in August to move forward with this issue to try to make contact with the Port to see if street artists can acquire more spaces at Pier 33 but there has been no movement since the vote. Mr. Addario stated it is under Mr. Lazar's job description to talk to the Port and get additional spaces since Mr. Addario can't go to the Port himself. Mr. Addario hoped that the issue can be placed on the next agenda if it is required. He noted that he would help Mr. Lazar once Mr. Lazar makes the first contact with the Port.

Mr. Addario stated that the reason why Sunshine requests are coming from two other members is because there are a lot of issues that haven't been told to them as street artists. For example, an \$18,000 charge for Mr. Cancel and Ms. Manton's services with a 5% service fee was charged to the Street Artists Program. These fees were decided, he said, in a meeting that should have been public. Also, Mr. Addario said he had a problem with the presence of the policeman who was asked to attend the Street Artists Program Committee meeting. He stated that it's a form of intimidation and that it's a dangerous situation to have a policeman with a gun if there is no threat. He reminded Commissioners that he has suggested that the meetings occur at City Hall in a secure place but his requests were denied.

Liaison Committee member Tad Sky reported on the Justin Herman fact sheet he created with a few members a year ago to give to new street artists. Mr. Sky gave Ms. Licouris a copy of the fact sheet packet.

Mr. Sky reminded Commissioners that the term for the Liaison committee ends in June and that they should call for an election soon.'

Mr. Sky addressed the usage of the Artist Checklist by the Advisory Committee on monitoring assignments. Mr. Sky stated that Advisory Committee member Susan Tibbon said last month she was initially happy with the checklist template. At the last screening meeting, however, he had a conversation with the Advisory Committee members and they felt the checklist was too short and didn't have adequate space for notes and comments. Mr. Sky explained that he believed the checklist was helpful to streamline the process so artists knew what their violations were that they were receiving. Mr. Sky is concerned that artists who are getting these violations are not getting suspended but only rescreened. He stated they should be sent to the Street Artists Program Committee meetings for suspensions for serious violations and not to get rescreened. Mr. Sky reported that, according to Ms. Tibbon, the other Advisory Committee members were upset that Mr. Porkola left and that the others might leave soon as well. Mr. Sky stated that this is an opportunity to get new people who want to be involved in the Arts Commission since many of the current Advisory Committee members have served well over their two year term. Mr. Sky added that it is easy to add another set of notes to the violations. He stated it is important for the 40th anniversary to have a good, clean program with handmade goods.

Mr. Sky asked why people are let into the program from different states. By letting these people enter the program, they will never be asked for a studio visit since the Advisory Committee won't travel to other states. He asked if it was possible to limit the program to the nine Bay Area counties.

Mr. Lazar answered that there is no limitation on where an artist can live since it is not stated in the Street Artists Ordinance. The only way to change it would be to go back to the ballot.

Mr. Sky commented on the 40th anniversary. Everyone he's talked to wants a big celebration with music and a stage. Once there is a committee meeting, they can figure out funding and proposals. Mr. Sky stated he isn't comfortable with working with anyone but Mr. Lazar on this project since they worked successfully together on the Program's 25th anniversary event. He added that the upcoming celebration shouldn't take too much time to plan.

Mr. Cancel said he wouldn't miss the celebration.

Mr. Lazar commented that the issue that made the 25th anniversary difficult was getting permits for closing off Beach Street. In the case of the 40th anniversary, if the event were to occur at Justin Herman Plaza, no street closing would occur and the committee would only work with Park and Recreation.

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4. Discussion. New Business/Public Comment.

Mr. Cancel commented on the Liaison Committee election. He is requesting that the Arts Commission use the summer to evaluate the past year of the Liaison Committee experiment. At that point, the Arts Commission will make recommendations to the Street Artists Program Committee to continue or modify the Liaison Committee or try another route.

Mr. Addario stated that ad hoc is a better idea for the committee. Mr. Lazar, he said, as a secretary to the committee is a conflict of interest. In the beginning, Mr. Addario said, the Liaison Committee was supposed to be independent but number of meetings was changed by Mr. Cancel to one every three months; Mr. Addario called this situation a dictatorship.

Mr. Calloway commented that, when Mr. Addario engages in hyperbole, it is hard to take him seriously.

Maria Hillius stated that she hopes that the Liaison Committee will continue to work with the Arts Commission, Mr. Lazar and Mr. Cancel. She stated that when Mr. Addario became Chair of the Committee, he had his own agenda and it was hard for anyone else to bring ideas to the table. She doesn't want to see the Liaison Committee discontinued because of him. She stated that Mr. Addario didn't represent the group but only his personal agenda in terms of when meetings were held and what was on the agenda, which she said, in her view made him a dictator.

Tad Sky also commented that there were high hopes for the Liaison Committee and wants it to continue. Mr. Addario, he stated, refused to have meetings. The Liaison Committee has been ineffectual because of the chairperson and Mr. Sky said he hopes Mr. Addario will not run again if he thinks the Committee is worthless. Mr. Sky stated it is more important than ever for the Liaison Committee to continue so they can help work on the 40th anniversary plan.

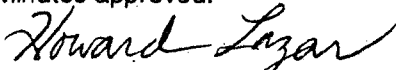
Commissioner Chew adjourned the meeting in honor of street artist Allen Frost at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Alyssa Licouris, Street Artists Program Assistant

Minutes approved:



Howard Lazar, Street Artists Program Director