

Commissioners

Anne Washburn, Chair
Elizabeth Schneider, Vice Chair
Sandra Solitario
Susan Theodore
Carol Todd
Jerry Welling

Ex-Officio Commissioners

Rose Marie Ansel
Robert Reese
Morgan Stock
Mary Buskirk
Erna Morris

MINUTES
COLTON HALL MUSEUM AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
March 26, 2007
City Council Chamber

Present: Commissioners Washburn, Schneider, Solitario, Todd, Welling, Reese, Stock, and Morris

Staff: Kim Bui-Burton, Doug Holtzman, Jim Conway, and Joelle Bushrow

Absent: Commissioners Theodore, Ansel, and Buskirk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Washburn called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
Between 3:30 and 4:00 PM a small memorial was held for Commissioner Nash along with family and friends at the Commissioner Nash Memorial Bench.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Welling to approve minutes, seconded by Todd. All ayes motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Selfridge wanted to let everyone know some seniors from Park Lane went to the Alvarado Gallery and got a chance to listen to artist Mary Ellen Hicks speak. She informed everyone how much they enjoyed themselves.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

ACTIVITY REPORT- Jim discussed how work continues on a daily basis and his staff including the museum attendants work hard to get it done. Kim responded by saying that March was full of activities. We had the unveiling of the Washington Portrait, the Musical Concert, and Colton Hall's Birthday Party. Everyone just pulled together and made it happen. Commissioner Welling commented about the Candlelight Concert and the visit from the Fire Marshall. Commissioner Welling's understanding was, candles are no longer allowed and would like to think of different options. Kim discussed how we are looking into other historic buildings and talking with the Fire Marshall further. Jim informed Commission that he received a letter from the Fire Marshall along with the fire codes. The suggestion of the Fire Marshall was battery operated candles. Jim let everyone know we will come up with some recommendations and cost. Commissioner Reese brought up Colonial Williamsburg and suggested staff check with them to see what they do. Commissioner Washburn discussed how nice the unveiling of the Washington Portrait went and how nice it was to have the donor Mr. Ritchie there. Jim mentioned it was a really good turn out and good coverage from the Herald regarding the unveiling and the birthday party. Jim also brought up how the Washington portrait has become a great focal point and discussion for people who go up to the Museum.

Kim asked Jim if he would like to discuss the group who approached him regarding the portrait. Jim responded there is such talk surrounding the portrait, if it's a period piece or not. So, Doug brought up a TV show called The History Detectives and mentioned that it would be great if they got involved. Jim informed everyone he e-mailed them and they responded they are very interested and asked we stop any research which has been done. Jim thinks something like this would be great for Monterey.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. ANGEL FUND RAISING PROJECT- Commissioner Welling informed everyone that 23 Angels had been distributed and he can easily get 25. One thing that has happened is that the artists have tiny studios and they would like the finished Angels removed. So, what Commissioner Welling suggested is he will take them and store them on a shelf at his store (he now has 2 there) and asks for the Commissioners to approve this. Commissioner Todd informed everyone that she has been doing thank you notes and has taken \$300.00 dollars in donations. In the thank you notes she discusses contacting them in the fall regarding placement of Angels. Commissioners discussed sending a follow up letter in May or June due to the hard times that have fallen on Monterey, to do it when things look a little better in downtown. Suggested maybe early September. Commissioner Welling would like to get together soon and discuss the promoting of the Angels. Also, the April timeline has moved to June and the Library is still the preferred location for the Angels auction in December 2007.

B. CULTURAL GRANTS UPDATE-Kim gave an update on the Cultural Arts Grant history and process. Staff recommend opening the Call for Grants on March 28th and closing three weeks later on April 18th at 4:00p.m. Staff will review and eliminate ones that don't meet the criteria or guidelines. The Commission will review accepted requests and at a special hearing on April 30 between 4:00 and 6:00 pm listen to 3-minute presentations by the grant applicants. The Commission will then forward to the City Council their recommendations. Commissioner Todd requested that they receive the packets before April 30 for review at home and not in front of the applicant. Kim stated that packets would be distributed at the regular Commission meeting on April 23 giving them a week to review before the meeting on April 30th. Commissioners were reminded \$10,000 was the amount founded for this FY. **MOTION:** To approve the application for the Cultural Arts Grants, the recommended application dates and timeline with the addition of the commission receiving the package of applications that meet the criteria on Monday, April 23; and also with the addition that for review

C. COMMISSIONER RETREAT- A date for the Commission retreat will be set after the appointment of a new commissioner.

D. Budget Update-Kim provided an overview of the City Budget process. It's a process that takes a lot of staff time and Jim and Doug have been working hard on it. For the next fiscal year staff are asking for added funding for preservation and repair, storage and supplies. Kim informed everyone we are having an appraisal of the city's art in the next month or two. Giving us a better understanding of the value and needs of specific pieces. Also, a separate request under stewardship between the Museum and the Library for rental space, or partnering with other agencies for climate controlled storage to augment or replace the vault.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Washburn asked everyone if they decided it was OK for Commissioner Welling to use his store for the Angel storage. Commission agreed and thanks him.

B. Commissioner Reese thanked everyone for arranging the memorial for Commissioner Nash

C. Commissioner Todd asked if the bronze cougars have been removed. Jim responded by saying they are welded in there and can't be removed. Commissioner Welling mentioned another set in Carmel behind the library.

D. Nancy Selfridge informed everyone that Commissioner Erna Morris was chosen as one of the outstanding women in the Monterey County.

E. Commissioner Morris-No Comment

F. Commissioner Stock was pleased with what he's heard and brought up that he thinks Commissioner Welling would do a great job in Jason's position as an Artifact Specialist when he leaves.

G. Commissioner Washburn reminded everyone to remember the next Commission meeting dates of April 23rd and April 30th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Chair Washburn adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM

B. Next Meeting: April 23, 2007

Minutes by Joelle Bushrow