

CORONADO DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 25, 2009

The regular meeting of the Coronado Design Review Commission was called to order at 3:03 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at the Coronado City Hall Council Chambers, 1825 Strand Way, Coronado, California, by Chairperson Reed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Hammett, Jones, Reed, and Shallan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Turpit

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Fait, Associate Planner
Martha L Alvarez, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of January 14, 2009, were approved as amended.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Design Review Commission Annual Election of Officers

Director Fait reported that the Municipal Code calls for an annual meeting of each Commission for the purpose of electing a Chair and Vice Chair for the year.

Commissioner Shallan nominated Chairperson Reed to continue serving as Chair.
Commissioner Hammett seconded the nomination.
The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Chair Shallan nominated himself to continue serving as Vice Chair.
Commissioner Hammett seconded the nomination.
The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Chair Shallan made a motion that Chairperson Reed continue serving as a representative on the Public Art Subcommittee; Commissioner Hammett serve as the new representative on the Public Art Subcommittee; Commissioner Shallan continue serving as a representative on Mainstreet; Commissioner Jones continue serving as a representative on the Historic Resource Commission, but no longer serve on the Public Art Subcommittee.
Commissioner Hammett seconded the vote.
The motion passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Reed reported that she attended two Public Art Subcommittee meetings. Discussions included items which are on today's Design Review Commission agenda. She announced that Heidi Wilson is serving as the interim Chairman, and Margo Roberts is serving as the interim Vice Chair on the subcommittee.

Commissioner Jones reported that she attended several Historic Resource Commission meetings. Discussions included proposed changes to the Mills Act Program. Various public workshops are planned which will be announced at a future date.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at this time.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

DR 1-09 CITY OF CORONADO – Recommendation from the Public Art Subcommittee to pursue two mosaic tile murals on the entry walls to the golf course club house to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Coronado Golf Course and to request funding from the Port District.

Mr. Fait presented the staff report as outlined in the agenda.

Vice Chair Shallan said he had an issue with approving a recommendation for placement of public art that has not yet been selected.

Mr. Fait said that final approval of the murals would return before the Commission once the Public Art Subcommittee makes its recommendation from three or four proposals. It is expected that the tile mosaic will be golf-related images.

Chairperson Reed clarified that the Commission is reviewing the request to place some type of mosaic tile art on the entry walls in order that it be presented to the Port District for funding in a timely manner. The specific design will return before the Commission for approval.

Mr. Fait said that it is important to obtain a "place holder" in the Port's budget. If the City Council approves the general concept of the mosaic tile art, direction can be given to the artists so that they may submit their proposals.

Vice Chair Shallan asked about the amount of money being requested by the City to fund public art.

Mr. Fait said the Port is being receptive to the request as they still have a formal Public Art Program, which sets aside one percent annually for their projects per their Ordinances. He added that it would be beneficial to the City if the Port approved the budget prior to the City proceeding

with the selection process for public art.

Vice Chair Shallan said that as a businessman, he would prefer to see more detail about the type of public art that is being recommended. His concern is that the Port District may also want to see something tangible before making their decision.

Chairperson Reed explained that the reason the initial design has not been brought forth for presentation is that it is only a concept. The Commission has previously approved concepts that have been changed after the fact; however, she noticed no concept drawings were made available for this project.

Mr. Fait said that the concept drawings were not made available because they would prefer not to influence other artists—the idea is to give other artists some basic guidelines and have them submit their proposals.

Chairperson Reed said she agreed with Commission Shallan in that it can be difficult for the Commission to make a recommendation when they do not have anything in front of them. She asked if the City will be providing a concept design to the Port.

Mr. Fait said that hopefully the proposals from other artists will be received and selections made before the final Port budget review process. Mr. Fait said that they will work with the Port in order to accommodate any of their requests.

Commissioner Jones said that she and Chairperson Reed have reviewed the proposed concept design and she feels that it is appropriate for the area. She said the public art is proposed to be in a highly visible area for the general public as well as the golfers.

Chairperson Reed reiterated that although the members of the Commission have not viewed the concept design, the Commission will not be voting on the design itself but on the idea of placing public art in a specific area.

Commissioner Hammett asked about the \$28,000 being requested from the Port in addition to the \$7,000 set aside by the City Council for this project. He asked if the City could place a less expensive type of art work in the existing frame which would be more in keeping with the City's budget.

Mr. Fait said that the Port District has indicated that they are willing to consider making a contribution to the City to help fund the cost of the proposed artwork.

Vice Chair Shallan said he had concerns about the \$28,000 being requested from the Port.

Commissioner Jones stated that almost half of the funds will be used to retrofit the walls in order to place the new mosaic tile.

Vice Chair Shallan asked about the budgeted \$7,000.

Chairperson Reed clarified that the \$7,000 is not budgeted—the funds were raised by the Golf Course. The City Council approved the use of these funds to be applied towards a public art project at the course.

Mr. Fait added that the Port is aware that public art is very expensive. He said that the Hubbell Fountain was paid for entirely by the Port as was the John Kohler stainless steel sculpture which is to be installed at the park next to the Yacht Club.

Vice Chair Shalan said that while the golf course is a public area, a very small part of the community will view this art piece because it will be located at the Club House. The funding request to the Port District seems high especially during these challenging economic times.

Mr. Fait reminded the Commission that this request must still be reviewed by City Council, the Port District Public Art Subcommittee, and the Board of Port Commissioners.

Chairperson Reed said the City is attempting to establish a logical series of steps on how to go forward with proposed projects. The funds have been reserved for public art at the golf course. If the funding request to the Port is not approved, other alternatives will need to be reassessed. Ms. Reed stated that design and its placement is in the Commission's purview—not funding issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carole Tessicini, 1651 Glorietta Boulevard, stated that many visitors as well as golfers frequent the golf course. The general public will have much exposure to the public art.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hammett stated that the entry wall is appropriate for a new, golf-oriented mosaic tile. The south wall is optional.

Chairperson Reed said that various locations were considered for public art on and around the golf course. Because of the parameters, it seemed that the entry wall would have the highest potential for public viewing. Initially, it was decided that the large wall would have the public art; however, consideration was given to the opposite wall as an opportunity for a companion piece. If the Port does not approve all of the funding, consideration will be given to placing the art on only one wall.

Ms. Tessicini added that with reference to location, it was specified that the art work be in a location where the public would have access to it.

Chairperson Reed said it was thought that the Port District would be more open to having an art piece where a greater numbers of persons would see it.

Vice Chair Shalan asked if it would be helpful to offer to the Port a cost breakdown on each of the art pieces.

Commissioner Jones said that from a design point of view, the two walls are very close to each other and would benefit from companion pieces. If only one wall is done, the other wall would look very bare. She would prefer not give the Port the option of approving only one art piece.

COMMISSION ACTION

CHAIRPERSON REED MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE TO PURSUE TWO MOSAIC TILE MURALS ON THE ENTRY WALLS TO THE GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE; TO OBTAIN PROPOSALS FROM A SHORT LIST OF TILE MOSAIC ARTISTS; AND THAT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,000 BE REQUESTED FROM THE PORT DISTRICT.

COMMISSIONER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION.

AYES: Commissioners Hammett, Jones, Reed.
NAYS: Commissioner Shalan.
ABSENT: Commissioner Turpit.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

There is a 15-day appeal period.

DR 2-09 CITY OF CORONADO – Recommendation from the Public Art Subcommittee that the Port District consider purchasing “My Bike” an urban tree by Amos Robinson and locate the piece on Tideland’s property in Coronado.

Director Fait presented the staff report as outlined in the agenda.

Artist Amos Robinson, presented his art piece, gave a brief overview and answered questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at this time.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Chairperson Reed said she has been an admirer of Urban Trees. She is conservative in her art likes and dislikes but she loves the trees because each is very unique. The project has been fun to watch evolve through the years. She feels that this particular sculpture may be very beneficial in Coronado because it seems to be a fairly conservative area. The art piece is reflective of the life

in Coronado and yet it has a bit of fun and frivolity to it that she feels is great around a bike path. If the Port District deems it wise to purchase it, she would definitely support it.

Commissioner Jones said she liked the whimsy and appeal of the art piece, especially if it is located in the Ferry Landing. She feels that the children would especially like the movement and reflective aspects of it.

Commissioner Hammett said he is neutral about the selection of this art piece by the Public Art Subcommittee but said it is a fascinating piece and would be enjoyed by the public.

Vice Chair Shallan asked, notwithstanding any comments about the art piece, if this was the only piece available for purchase by the Port.

Chairperson Reed replied no, there are other art pieces available for purchase. This particular piece appealed to the Public Art Subcommittee because the art piece is a bicycle and Coronado has its bicycle paths. In addition, there is an existing piece that is reminiscent of the sail which will be installed at the Yacht Club.

Vice Chair Shallan asked if the Public Art Subcommittee considered other sculptures for purchase by the Port.

Commissioner Jones said the other sculptures were not discussed because the Subcommittee felt strongly that this piece was representative of a recreational aspect of Coronado.

Mr. Fait added that many of the other sculptures are more abstract and are not a defined object which may not be as easy for persons to understand. He recognizes that in Coronado a more conservative viewpoint is taken and it helps to have an art piece that persons can relate to as well as have a connection to its location, such as a piece that serves as an entry sign to a bike path.

Commissioner Shallan asked if there was discussion at the Public Art Subcommittee meeting about asking the Port to have a new art piece created for Coronado as opposed to having a piece that has been viewed by the larger community for a year or so.

Chairperson Reed said the Port Commission does purchase art pieces that have been on display. The idea was to possibly have the Port District purchase one of the art pieces and have it placed on Tideland's property in Coronado.

Commissioner Shallan asked about the location of art pieces that have been purchased by the Port.

Mr. Fait said that art pieces have been placed in locations throughout the member cities in San Diego.

Mr. Robinson said there are currently 12 art pieces that have been placed around the bay. Every year the Port purchases two or three; however, he does not know their exact locations.

Chairperson Reed asked if any of the art pieces are on loan or if they are permanent fixtures.

Mr. Robinson replied that the art pieces are on display for about one year. At that time, the art piece is returned to the artists to keep or sell. The Port has in the past purchased between one and three per year.

COMMISSION ACTION

COMMISSIONER JONES MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO CITY COUNCIL FOR THE PURCHASE OF "MY BIKE" AN URBAN TREE BY ARTIST AMOS ROBINSON AND LOCATE THE PIECE ON TIDELANDS PROPERTY IN CORONADO.

COMMISSIONER SHALLAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

AYES: Commissioners Hammett, Jones, Reed, and Shallan.
NAYS: Commissioner Turpit.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

There is a 15-day appeal period.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Rachel A. Hurst
Director of Community Development, Redevelopment
& Housing Services