

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**SYNOPSIS**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2009**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**City Hall**  
**Conference Room 280-A**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Present: Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Yousem, Goldsmith

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of February 19, 2009

MOVED by Meshkaty, SECONDED by Nazarian to approve as presented (7/0)  
AYES: Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Yousem, Goldsmith  
ABSENT: None  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED

**ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Report from Administrator: James Latta  
Human Services Administrator Latta gave a brief report on Human Services Action Items, Announcements, and Regional and local meetings he and Human Services Outreach Manager Kahn attended.
- Commission Process and budget Update: Director Miller  
Community Services Director Miller gave a brief update on the Community Services Department Fiscal Year 09/10 budget and budget process.

**HRC LIAISON REPORTS**

- Report from Beverly Hills Unified School District: Dr. Brian Goldberg  
Dr. Brian Goldberg gave a brief report on school district events.
- Report from Beverly Hills Police Department: Captain Mitch McCann  
Captain McCann gave a brief report on the recent death of a 22-year old former BHHS student who died while participating in "Russian Roulette" at a Los Angeles

location; graffiti by “taggers,” was not gang-related.

- Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting: Chair Goldsmith gave a report of Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting held on March 11, 2009.

**BREAK**

- ◆ Commissioners took a ten minute break

**Tab. 2 AD HOC/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Multicultural Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Sherman                      Commissioners: Meshkaty, Linder

Committee Chair Sherman gave an update on the week-long program titled, “Celebrating Your Heritage”.

- Civil Discourse Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Goldsmith                      Commissioners: Nazarian, Ginsburg

MOVED by Ginsburg, SECONDED by Meshkaty that, the following statement be submitted to staff to process through the appropriate communications channels as a statement from the Human Relations Commission;

The Mission of the Human Relations Commission of the City of Beverly Hills is *to promote positive human relations in all aspects of community life...* Based on our observations during the most recent election and the one that preceded it, we feel compelled to express our concern. We believe that the examination of diverse candidates and challenging issues can be conducted with greater civility than we have witnessed during this past year. While our schools may provide civics education in the classroom, we citizens are obligated to provide our young people with a real life model of positive civic behavior. We teach by example. We hope that every member of this community will join us as we take a stand in support of an environment where respect and responsible actions prevail not only in all future elections but in every aspect of our community life.  
(7/0)

AYES: Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Yousem, Goldsmith

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

- Human Relations Commission Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Ginsburg                      Commissioners: Meshkaty, Sherman

Committee Chair Ginsburg suggested after the committees' review of other Human Relations Commission mission statements that time be allocated during the next commission meeting to discuss essential elements prior to the Committee working on revising the existing Commission's mission statement.

- Homeless Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Linder                              Commissioners: Yousem, Nazarian

MOVED by Linder, SECONDED by Yousem that the Commission develop a process to collect and distribute donations to benefit the homeless and distribute items collected in a fair and equitable rotation among agencies and organizations.

AYES:      Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Yousem,  
                 Goldsmith

ABSENT: None

NOES:      None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

- Senior Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Yousem                              Commissioners: Linder

Committee Chair Yousem noted information was included in the packet regarding the Special Needs Registry.

- Community Task Force Advisory Committee  
Committee Chair: Nazarian                              Commissioners: Goldsmith, Ginsburg

Committee Chair Nazarian gave a committee report and requested direction from the Commission on next steps for the Community Task Force Committee.

MOVED by Meshkaty, SECONDED by Linder, to approve that the Community Task Force Advisory Committee work on the following four items

1. Resource Directory – A compilation of resources available to the community that address issues raised in the roundtable meetings (e.g., Safe Ride Program of The Maple Counseling Center, provides life-saving rides home for teen as an alternative to drunk driving).
2. Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity Training – beginning with the Human Relations Commission, then outreach to all commissioners, City Council members, Beverly Hills Police and Fire departments, BHUSD

- staff and teachers, and the business and commerce community.
3. Town Hall Meetings – Initiate one or more town hall meetings to address issues raised; utilize strategies for successful outreach as discussed at roundtable meetings:
    - a. Plan meetings that are not limited to Persian-American issues; recruit people to go from larger meetings to smaller focus groups.
    - b. Artificially formed groups are less likely to work; hold small group meetings where communities naturally meet; (e.g., in schools with parents, in synagogues, organized sports, civic organizations, and public businesses).
    - c. Utilize cross-cultural media for PSA's
  4. Neighbor to Neighbor Disputes – create an arena and raise awareness that people can come to the Human Relations Commission to initiate problem-solving through a mediated resolution process as a means to avoid legal actions.

and bring issue by issue back to the full Commission for further consideration. (7/0)

AYES: Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Yousem, Goldsmith

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

Vice Chairperson Yousem left at 12:08

**Tab 3. NAACP ACT-SO EVENT MARCH 21, 2009 – INFORMATION ONLY**

Commission was informed of event

**Tab 4. CALENDAR 2009 COMMISSION MEETING DATES**

Commission was provided upcoming meeting dates

**COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Per Commission suggestion time estimated were added next to each agenda item in effort to facilitate efficiency of meeting.

Human Services Administrator Latta reviewed, *The Life of a Motion*, from "Robert's Rules Made Easy" (Rita Cook). Commission and staff briefly discussed process.

**ADJOURNMENT at 12:38 p.m.**

MOVED by Ginsburg, SECONDED by Meshkaty to adjourn (6/0)

AYES: Meshkaty, Ginsburg, Sherman, Nazarian, Linder, Goldsmith

ABSENT: Yousem

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED



FINE ART COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SYNOPSIS  
Thursday March 19, 2009  
4:00 p.m.  
CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM 280-A

ROLL CALL  
All present

1. COMMISSION MINUTES

Minutes of February 19, 2009 approved, with one correction.

REPORT BY CHAIR

Chair Kanter reported on highlights of the Mayor's Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

2. REPORT BY FINE ART COMMISSION STAFF LIAISON

Staff reminded Fine Art Commissioners how the Recreation and Park Commission will begin to interface with Fine Art Commission as the installation of *Erratic* approaches to define issues to be decided together, i.e., turf/topography issues in final location; maintenance; existing city services, etc. *Sisyphus* will be returned the week of March 30; there is a fully cured pad waiting for its return. Communications Dept. is being more pro-active about educating the public with regard to where the money that feeds the fund for the purchase of public art comes from and that the purchase of one, or multiple, work(s) of public art in no way diminishes the amount of money the City has for services, etc.

**CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS**

3. PROPOSAL FOR COMMISSION OF ARTWORK BY DAN GRAHAM

Fine Art Commission members engaged themselves in a lively, detailed discussion regarding the piece by Dan Graham, including their visit to MOCA to view his current installation there, the economic situation, the costs of shipping the works and decided to put off the final vote until staff could bring in more financial details surrounding the installation and maintenance of this work, which would give us a clearer picture of what would remain in the fund for the purchase of future works.

4. PROPOSAL FOR ACQUISITION OF ARTWORK BY DENNIS OPPENHEIM

In light of the tabled vote of the acquisition of the Graham piece, the Commission agreed to table discussion of the work by Mr. Oppenheim until April.

5. BEVERLY HILLS CULTURAL PLAN AND INVENTORY LIST

The Cultural Plan is a roadmap, of sorts, for Beverly Hills; it is always held up as a guide to the decision process on the City level. The Cultural landscape is tied into the economic development.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS/STAFF  
(INCLUDING TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS)

Chair Kanter encouraged the *Erratic* Opening, Cell phone tour, and Outreach committees to activate quickly. It was suggested that the opening of *Erratic* should be booked somewhere around mid-June to avoid competition from vacations, etc. The Annenberg Cultural Center is opening the Photography Center on 6-25-09. Staff reported that the photos the Weisman Foundation originally wanted to exhibit in the City Hall corridor are too large for the desired location.

2009 COMMITTEE ROSTER/ COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS (point person in **bold**)

- Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Committee (Kanter, **Shepard**, Potter)
- Cell Phone Audio Tour Committee (Smooke, **Chalom**, Potter)
- Education (Arts-4-All/BHUSD) Committee (**Friedman**)
- *Erratic* Installation/Reception Committee (Smooke, Pressman, **Potter**)
- Outreach/Public Art Tour Committee (Shepard, Chalom, **Pressman**)
- Public Art Maintenance and Preservation Committee (**Kanter**, Pressman)
- Weisman Art Foundation Committee (Friedman, **Smooke**)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m