

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR STUDY SESSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
PLANNING COMMISSION
January 21, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92672**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Darden called the Regular Study Session of the Planning Commission of the City of San Clemente to order at 6:02 p.m. in City Council Chambers, located at 100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente, CA 92672.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Vonne Barnes, Barton Crandell and Michael Smith; Chair pro tem Jim Ruehlin, Vice Chairperson Donald Brown, and Chairperson Julia Darden

Commissioners Absent: Wayne Eggleston

Staff Present: Jim Pechous, City Planner
Eileen White, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

- A. What role should architecture and context play in evaluating public art?
(Pechous)

Discussion about the role art plays in our Architectural Overlay Districts and the types of considerations taken in evaluating it.

Jim Pechous, City Planner, displayed photos of existing artwork of various mediums currently situated in the architectural overlay areas of the City. He recommended the Commission provide comment on the future of art installations within the City.

Michael Kaupp, resident and Downtown Business Association (DBA) representative, commented that the DBA is currently in the process of establishing guidelines for artwork to support, but not detract from the Spanish Colonial Revival Architectural Overlay that governs the Downtown area. He supports a variety of mediums and finds short term or temporary themed décor a very interesting proposal. He agreed that different areas of town can be more receptive to artwork that is different than artwork that

would be complementary to Spanish Colonial Revival architecture; noted importance of guidelines and review from varied and competent individuals due to the subject nature of art. He agreed to provide staff a copy of the DBA guidelines once they have been established.

Larry Culbertson, resident, commented that modern sculpture, such as the one on Fisherman's Restaurant at the Pier, can be complementary as well. He established from staff that the Pier area is in a Maritime Architecture Overlay.

During discussion, the Commissioners, either individually or in agreement, provided the following commentary:

- Suggested consideration of experimental installations, with review following a specific period of time to determine if it should continue.
- Discussed future of current painted utility box program, and requested staff provide additional information concerning the artistic principles used to select the artwork, permanence of the utility boxes, and appropriateness of the artwork setting.
- Discussed potential for short term street décor, such as the elephants displayed in Dana Point, which may have different standards/connectivity to location as long term installations.
- Commented on the importance of including local artists in future art programs as local artists have set the tone for the entire City.
- Suggested consideration of limited art styles/mediums to those used before 1928 in the Spanish Colonial Revival Architectural overlay areas.
- Suggested using a two-pronged approach; evaluating the art on its own merit with input from the City's art community, and then considering its appropriateness through DRSC from a land use or urban design perspective.
- Commented on the importance of being flexible with regard to materials and styles in order to encourage creativity.
- Commented that the artwork should be supportive and complementary to building architecture.
- Suggested inclusion of examples and/or templates in the General Plan to guide artwork complementary to the different styles of architecture within the City.
- Discussed desire to ensure flexibility in order to showcase artistic brilliance and cutting edge projects.
- Commented that due to the varied districts identified within the City, all styles and mediums of artwork have the opportunity to be displayed.
- Suggested that the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Commission should also be included in artwork selection, location, etc. due to the

many opportunities for artwork display such as along the Beach Trail, at the City's beaches, etc.

- Suggested guidelines must be in place in order to differentiate artwork from signage.
- Discussed potential involvement of developers in an art program.
- Commented on the importance of displaying quality art; suggested establishing set criteria to judge artwork with requirement that artwork would have to meet some but not all the criteria in order to be approved for installation.
- Suggested school, Boys and Girls Club, youth program participation in temporary art installations.
- Commented that artwork should also complement the hills, sky and City landmarks.


City Planner Pechous commented that the architecture featured on a building is part of its artwork; noted that students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo would be interning with the City again, and planning to identify the types of architecture currently featured in the City's Surf Zone. He will ask them to suggest art guidelines as well.

RECESS - Recess until 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Darden, Chair

Attest:


Jim Pechous, City Planner