CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeanine Stanek; Comm. David Squellati; Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan; Comm. Ted Ringel

Chair Stanek stated that Comm. Verma contacted her of her planned absence. She also noted that Comm. Marsolais contacted her as well and will not be able to attend the meeting due to a recent accident.

Commission confirmed that they are both excused absences.

Absent: Comm. Frenchie Marsolais; Comm. Amrit Verma (Excused)

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of August 4, 2010 Draft Minutes

Comm. Vaidyanathan made a motion to approve the August 4, 2010 Draft Minutes, as corrected. Comm. Ringel seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with Comm.'s Marsolais and Verma absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS
1. Trompe l’oeil Artwork for Murphy Avenue - Review and Comment of the Draft Request for Artist Qualifications (RFQ)

Mr. Kuchenig, Associate Planner, summarized the draft RFQ, and stated that he can forward any comments to Kristen Dance, Visual Arts Coordinator. He noted that a volunteer panel will be selected in March. Once the selection process is done, three finalists will be ranked in May (tentatively). He described the basic parameters of the program.

Chair Stanek asked staff why this type of art was chosen. Mr. Kuchenig noted he will get clarification from Arts Division staff.

Comm. Ringel asked where the $42,000 budget is coming from. Staff noted that this is the amount that is allocated and that he will get more information for the Commission.

Comm. Ringel suggested adding this type of historic art to Plaza Del Sol. Staff noted that this idea could be explored with the Arts Division staff. Comm. Ringel stated that the City may add historical aspects, such as Murphy Station, Hendy Ironworks, and other historical areas in Sunnyvale.

Mr. Kuchenig pointed out that this program pertains to the 100 block of South Murphy Avenue, and not Plaza Del Sol.

Comm. Ringel noted that such art on South Murphy Avenue could be a waste of money, and noted that local college students may be able to do this type of art for no charge.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that these comments are all valid concerns, and he encouraged the Commission to volunteer for the selection panel. He noted that Kristen Dance is the coordinator of this program in collaboration with Planning Division staff.

Chair Stanek felt that the City could be criticized for this type of art, if not done well, especially in a Historic District.

Comm. Ringel noted that South Murphy Avenue is not a place for modern art. He further stated that Plaza Del Sol could be more appropriate, as it is an open area constructed mostly of concrete that can use artwork.

Comm. Vaidyanathan asked how and why this was funded. Mr. Kuchenig noted that a public art feature on Murphy Avenue was approved during the Murphy Avenue Streetscape project.

Comm. Ringel asked who will maintain it over time. Mr. Kuchenig noted that there will be agreements with the City and the property owners to ensure the maintenance of the art.

Comm. Ringel asked staff if there is a possibility of a joint study session with the Arts Commission. Staff responded that a joint study session could be possible.

Vice Chair Squellati noted that he is agreeable with this type of art, if done appropriately, and it could bring more people to the area.

Comm. Vaidyanathan pointed out that the RFQ stated that the art is to blend in with the current background.
Comm. Squellati liked the idea of the program. He noted that anything that will attract more people to the area is good.

Chair Stanek stated that this Commission should be involved as much as possible and asked staff to keep them up to date. Mr. Kuchenig said he will give them updates as he encouraged the Commission members to volunteer for the selection panel.

Comm. Ringel noted a concern that there is not enough funding to keep the streets clean but there is a budget for art.

2. Discussion of Potential Study Issues for 2011

Chair Stanek noted the previous City Council meeting regarding Council Member Moylan’s comment regarding stopping traffic on South Murphy Avenue and changing it to a pedestrian only street to be considered a study issue.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that traffic issues are handled by the Traffic Division; however, City Council can certainly make recommendations.

Mr. Kuchenig further stated that he hopes to present the Commission’s draft study issues at the October meeting and the rankings will occur at the November meeting.

Comm. Ringel noted that Heritage Park and Sunken Gardens should be studied as a possible historic resource. Staff said that those are the two locations that he has noted.

Chair Stanek mentioned that Washington Park could also be a historic park, as it is the first park in the City.

Comm. Ringel asked staff, given the time constraints, if they should specify more parks or less. Mr. Kuchenig noted that a more narrow study issue may be more attractive to avoid misinterpretation of the issue.

Comm. Ringel handed out an article from December 11, 1967 regarding the downtown mall. He requested staff to include the article with the minutes for the City Council to view.

Comm. Vaidyanathan asked if they were to narrow the issue to three parks, would the City Council be able to expand the score if they wanted to. Mr. Kuchenig responded in the affirmative and that City Council may make recommendations to potential study issues.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Comm. Ringel asked if staff can distribute the packets earlier than the Friday prior to the Wednesday meetings.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that if circumstances make it possible, the packets can be distributed on Thursdays. He further stated that reports may need to be sent on Fridays to allow for more time, if there is a public hearing.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS
None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stanek adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner