

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Hugh R. Riley, Assistant City Manager 
BY: Jessica Szczepan, Administrative Specialist

DATE: August 1, 2008 (CC Meeting of 08/20/08)

SUBJECT: Consider Confirming Role of the Moorpark Arts Commission

BACKGROUND

Ordinance 344 added Chapter 2.38 – Moorpark Arts Commission to Title 2 – Administration and Personnel of the Moorpark Municipal Code. In response to discussion at the joint City Council/Arts Commission meeting on April 23, 2008, the City Council requested that staff return in 90-days with a proposal to more clearly define the role of the Arts Commission.

DISCUSSION

During the Joint City Council Arts Commission meeting, among other things, there was discussion between the Council and Commission about the advisory role of the Arts Commission and how it might be more clearly defined or expanded.

Currently, Chapter 2.38 defines the duties and responsibilities of the Arts Commission as follows:

- “A. *Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to the High Street Arts Center’s programming activities, administration and development of the annual theatrical season, promotion of the arts center’s programs and services to stimulate interest therein, and review of a long-range capital improvement plan.*”

The Commission has expressed a desire to become more involved in the planning of the theatrical production season for the Arts Center. This might include obtaining the Commission’s views on the types of plays that might be considered before the season is planned and additional post season discussion about how the productions have been received by the local and visiting audiences. The Commission might also sponsor a

special meeting to obtain information from the community about programming. The Commission could also review and comment on the level of promotion activity, and the type and frequency of special attractions and co-productions. The Commission does not and should not have review authority over the Arts Center budget.

- B. In accordance with Chapter 17.50 of this (Moorpark Municipal Code), act in an advisory capacity and review the conceptual design and placement of artwork, solicit public comment, and provide a recommendation to the City Council on the design and location.*

The Commission has expressed a desire to become more meaningfully involved in the process of review and approval of submittals for the City's Art in Public Places program including involvement in the designation of locations for public art with project sites at an earlier point in the project development review process. Involvement by the Arts Commission early in the project planning process could include general discussions with project applicants and Community Development staff on potential locations for public art and types of public art pieces or design features (i.e. interactive, water, motion, etc.) that make sense for the anticipated land uses and project design. These preliminary Commission recommendations could be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council when the project Planned Development Permit is being considered. This would necessitate at least one additional meeting and related costs for the applicant and staff.

Commercial projects remaining with a potential for early involvement by the Commission include Commonwealth Studios, and the redevelopment projects on High Street. Although the number of new commercial projects is limited, there is some significant opportunity for commission participation in site planning for public art for public projects including the Ruben Castro Human Services Center, the New Civic Center and Library, and the new Post Office.

- C. Perform such other duties as may be requested from time to time by the City Council. (Ord. 344 § 3 (part) 2006)"*

The establishment of the Moorpark Community Foundation for the Arts has the potential to provide funding opportunities for a variety of programs, projects and activities that might involve participation by the Commission.

The Council may wish to review the video recording of the Commission's last meeting when some of these matters were discussed. It can be viewed on the City's website.

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FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the role of the Arts Commission as outlined in Chapter 2.38 of the Moorpark Municipal Code.