

- Has had preliminary discussions with the developers about making the property available for non-profit events under certain parameters until construction begins.
- Construction of the actual project probably won't begin until next Spring.
- Last night, the City Council approved an ordinance to implement a number of provisions from the new General Plan and Zoning Ordinance changes. Included in those were;
 - The Public Arts Committee will now have final approval authority over private art proposals, rather than the Design Review Board.
 - Changed composition requirements, from rigid requirements to guidelines, for the Public Arts Committee.

The Committee asked questions of Director Webster.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

6. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: There were none.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: There were none.

8. REGULAR AGENDA: There were none.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chair Gordon referred to the minutes of December 07, 2016 and commented:

- Staff did a great job in preparing them.
- It was helpful for the City Council to refer to that record which covered a couple of hours of discussion by the Committee.
- The minutes were spot-on.

The Committee concurred.

Ms. Mansour thanked the Committee.

A. UPDATE REGARDING SITING OF NED KAHN SCULPTURE: Artist Ned Kahn's proposal was selected by the City Council for the City's first commissioned art work, however, a site selection was deferred. Staff will provide a brief update on site selection.

Director Webster presented the staff report.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

Director Webster noted:

- The original site, on Highway 12 in Meadowlark Field at the Laguna Preserve, as well as an alternate site identified by Mr. Kahn, right next to the Highway 12 bridge on the south side of the roadway at Tomodachi Park, have been ruled out due to an Open Space District easement.
- Other sites that have been talked about include;

- Behind the gravel parking lot at the Youth Annex; with no easement problem, this is a location that would be feasible for the City however, the majority of the Council seemed to want something that had greater visibility.
- Next to the Highway 12 bridge, on the north side, near a City welcome sign, there is a little field; this is a site that is really liked, and possibly most preferred, by Mr. Kahn. The issue with this site is that there are big utility poles and transmission lines that interfere with the appropriate placement of the sculpture. A discussion with PG&E about that issue is in the works. Mr. Kahn indicated that he has a possible donor that might fund utility relocation or undergrounding. Issues aside, this site appears to meet the placement criteria that the Council was looking for.
- A councilmember suggested that the Village Mobile Home Park property, which is right next to Tomodachi Park, be looked at. Specifically, there is a low, concrete split rail fence along the frontage of Sebastopol Avenue which the sculpture could be placed behind. The issue of big transmission lines exists there as well. Also, it could be problematic to encourage public access to a private mobile home park property.
- Another possibility, further down on Mr. Kahn's list, is somewhere along the frontage of the Center for the Arts property. This is public property that is owned by the County, not the City. If interest, further discussions would need to take place to see how that could work.
- An unidentified private property, which would be highly visible, may be an option as well, however, further discussion with the owners of the property and others is needed before it could be actually considered.
- Things are very up in the air with site selection as it has taken a while to coordinate meetings with various entities, such as the Open Space District and now with PG&E.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked Director Webster what the expected timeline was.

Director Webster commented that it would probably be at least a year before the sculpture is installed.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- If the Council wants it at an entrance to town, there are four of them.
- Asked if one of the three or four islands along Covert Lane had been considered.
- The footprint of this sculpture is not huge, it's the height that is extreme.

Committee member Vertz commented:

- There is an area where Mill Station Road meets 116 that could be a really nice entry location.

Director Webster responded that that area is County property.

Committee member Mills-Thysen mentioned the south entrance to town and asked about the rumored relocation of the library.

Director Webster responded that, if that happens, it would likely be 10 years from now, or longer.

Committee member Arnold reiterated that all four of the main entrances to town should be looked at for placement of this piece.

Committee member Gordon asked Director Webster if the money for Mr. Kahn's piece would remain in the City's art fund, earning interest, while all of the details were worked out.

Director Webster responded that the money would remain with the City and commented that he was unsure about where any earned interest would go.

Committee member Gordon commented:

- If the City is open to placing this piece on private property, the wide sidewalks in front of the new CVS site could be considered.

Committee member Arnold noted liability issues if placed on private property.

Director Webster commented that the City would need to have an agreement with the private property owner to deal with those types of issues.

Committee member Arnold commented that private property had not been entertained for this piece.

Director Webster concurred.

Committee member Mills-Thysen noted that an agreement would have to be in place to address future sale of the property, if placed on private property, as well.

Director Webster concurred.

Committee member Mills-Thysen commented that placement along Hwy 12 at The Barlow could be a consideration.

Director Webster responded that a workable site had not been identified in that area.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Regardless of its placement on City-owned or private property, it should look like it is part of the City, not just a private property owner's artwork.

Director Webster concurred.

Committee member Mills-Thysen and Chair Gordon agreed that Mr. Kahn's preferred location is a great spot, however noting the issue with the utility poles and transmission lines and the potential delay that could be caused.

Chair Gordon commented that the delay could almost be as big of an impediment as the cost to relocate or underground the utility lines.

Director Webster concurred.

Committee member Mills-Thysen and Chair Gordon agreed that the location of the 'Peace Wall' could have been good for this piece.

Chair Gordon suggested looking into whether or not the artist of the 'Peace Wall' would be amenable to relocating it.

Director Webster commented that that was unlikely.

The Committee asked clarifying questions of Director Webster, in terms of timeline and in their involvement in site selection and review.

Director Webster commented that the Committee would have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed siting, once selected, before going to the Council for final approval.

Chair Gordon commented that the artist should be involved in site selection.

The Committee and Director Webster agreed.

Chair Gordon commented that a parking space in a parking lot could be considered.

Committee member Mills-Thysen mentioned Spooner Park and asked if the solar array and signs could be moved to accommodate the structure.

Director Webster commented that that could be a challenge.

Chair Gordon commented that that area is not pedestrian friendly.

Director Webster concurred.

Committee member Vertz suggested that any City-owned areas along the Joe Rodota Trail, near the entrance to town, be looked into.

Committee member Mills-Thysen expressed being strongly opposed to placing the piece in front of CVS because there is no natural environment near it, it is very commercial, and there is a lot of strong sentiment about that location.

Committee member Mills-Thysen commented that it could be placed in front of the library.

B. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC ART SELECTION PROCESS, FUTURE PROJECTS: The Committee is requested to discuss the process used to select a public art work, and any changes that should be considered for the next selection process. In addition, the Committee is requested to begin discussion of the next public art project.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Suggested that the selection process be based a proposed project using an RFP (Request for Proposal), not on the artist's qualifications via an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) as had been done previously.
- Has received and granted a number of grants through the RFP process.
- A rough proposal prior to selection can help eliminate delays and unknowns, like the one that is being experienced with Mr. Kahn's piece.
- Would like to include a budget statement requesting that the artwork fall within the specified budget.
- It is important for artist's to get paid for their work.

- Doesn't want to give the impression that whomever is willing to give the most for free, above the specified budget, will win.

Chair Gordon asked clarifying questions of Committee Member Vertz.

Chair Gordon agreed with Committee Member Vertz on not wanting to set a precedent which may encourage people to bid higher.

Committee member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Expressed being in disagreement because that assumes that the Public Arts Committee and City Council are swayed by, 'bigger is better'.
- The precedent should be what we as the City like and what the City is getting for it, not the money.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked clarifying questions.

Director Webster explained that Committee member Vertz was suggesting a process where artists would submit a conceptual proposal up front, rather than a process based on the artist's resume.

Committee member Vertz concurred.

Director Webster noted that, through this initial process, they have learned that a workable site should be selected up front.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Likes the direction that Committee member Vertz is suggesting.
- The only problem with it that he can see is that artists who do not live in this area may be at a disadvantage which may limit the pool of artists.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked Committee member Vertz if she objected to identifying a site prior to putting out a call for artists.

Committee member Vertz expressed being very much in favor of identifying a site beforehand.

Committee member Mills-Thysen commented that it sounded like the Committee was talking about choosing the medium prior to putting out a call for artists as well.

Committee member Vertz concurred and commented that she likes the idea of providing more guidance to prospective artists.

Chair Gordon concurred.

Committee member Vertz commented that the artist's resume would be an important consideration when looking at the proposal because it would aid the Committee in gaging if the artist could accomplish what they proposed.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- Finds it difficult to accept Committee member Vertz's reasoning about not accepting a project when they artist wants to give something extra.

- As an artist, he's given away art his whole life.
- Mr. Kahn came through with his proposal because he wanted to do something for his community. That will not happen again and language to prevent it from happening again is not necessary.
- If we identify a site prior to putting out a call for artists we should include everything the prospective artist would need to know about the site in the call so they wouldn't feel like they needed to visit Sebastopol prior to applying.
- We should be open to all types of artwork.
- Expressed being okay with a process that calls for conceptual drawings as well as a history of the artists qualifications.

Committee member Mills-Thysen commented that the Committee appears to be in agreement on specifying a location and providing dimensional drawings of the site.

The Committee concurred.

The Committee agreed on the artist's budget and breakdown being important to see.

Committee member Vertz commented that, if the proposal is over-budget, it is important for the Committee to know that as it could affect the ability of the artist to deliver on the proposal.

Chair Gordon expressed being okay with the process as discussed.

Committee Arnold agreed.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked if the Committee wanted to preselect the medium as well.

Committee members commented that site selection would play a role in that as well and agreed on identifying a preferred medium, or mediums.

Committee member Arnold noted the two pedestal on the east end of the Highway 12 bridge and commented that those could be a good location for future consideration.

Director Webster and the Committee concurred.

Director Webster commented that it would be good to wrap up the siting issue for Mr. Kahn's artwork before moving on to the next call for artists.

The Committee concurred.

Director Webster commented that the balance in the art fund, excluding the funds for Mr. Kahn's piece, is around \$75,000.

The Committee asked questions of Director Webster.

Director Webster commented:

- In terms of the future art project; the Committee may want to begin thinking about site selection.

Committee member Arnold suggested that each member come up with three locations, for purposes of discussion, prior to their next meeting.

The Committee agreed.

Director Webster commented that the Committee may meet in May, depending on whether or not staff has anything definitive to bring forward with regards to placement of Mr. Kahn's sculpture.

The Committee requested that they meet at their regularly scheduled meeting in May regardless to discuss preliminary site selection for the future art project as well as to begin working on the process that may be used for their next call for artists.

Committee member Mills-Thysen encouraged the Committee to continue thinking of good siting options for Mr. Kahn's artwork.

Director Webster welcomed any suggestions via email and noted that he would talk to Mr. Kahn about all of these suggestions.

10. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE/STAFF: There were none.

11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:33 a.m. to the regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held May 03, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster
Planning Director