



the GPAC, and to hear any public comment. The formal draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report will be prepared for review following the meetings.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

**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:**

**A. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ART PROJECT:** The Committee will review a draft RFQ to solicit statements of qualifications for prospective artists for a public art project. City Council review of the RFQ will also be required.

The Committee asked a variety of questions of Director Webster.

The Committee conducted a section-by-section discussion of the draft RFQ. Key comments and suggested revisions included:

- The Committee discussed the Council's request to include the language, "Sonoma County artists are desirable."
  - Committee Member Arnold stated that he'd like for the competition to be open to artists/artist teams living in Sonoma County, rather than in the State of California. He commented that the City would likely get more for their money if the piece were produced locally.
  - Chair Gordon disagreed on the City getting more for their money if the piece were produced locally and stated that prioritizing Sonoma County potentially limits the benefits of the search. He added that there is no value in limiting access to ideas.
  - Committee Member Vertz stated that it could be limited it to the North Bay.
  - Committee Member Arnold questioned how the Committee could honor the Council's request to give more weight to Sonoma County Artists.
  - Committee Member Persinger stated that the Committee had previously discussed this concept at length and felt that their recommendation to the Council had been well vetted. He expressed being reluctant to back up at this point.
  - Committee Member Mills-Thysen stated that she was comfortable with letting it stand as is, however, she agreed that artists outside of Sonoma County may be discouraged to apply.

The Committee agreed to leave the basic parameters as is in the draft.

- Committee Member Mills-Thysen stated the third paragraph under 'About Sebastopol' on page 1 is vague and should be rewritten to recognize people with a 'Sebastopol' mailing address, which is estimated to be over 25,000.

Director Webster agreed that there are three levels of population that could be reflected.

- Committee Member Mills-Thysen requested that the first sentence of the fourth

paragraph under ‘About Sebastopol’ on page 1 be revised as follows, “The City has an extraordinary location, being surrounded by farmland, vineyards, orchards, rural residential and wetlands, located minutes from the Sonoma Coast and the Russian River area, and just 60 miles north of San Francisco.

- Committee Member Mills-Thysen requested that the last sentence of the fifth paragraph under ‘About Sebastopol’ on page 1 be revised as follows, “It is anticipated that there will be a high level of community involvement with public art projects.”
- The Committee agreed to revisit the sites list that they’d come up with at a later date.
- The Committee requested that the language under ‘Sites’ be revised to make it clear that the sites list is preliminary and that the City is open to ideas for other city-owned sites.
- Under ‘Eligibility’ the Committee agreed to revise the first sentence as follows; “This competition is open to artists/artist teams living in the State of California.”
  - Some Committee members felt that including the language, “while Sonoma County artists are desirable” makes the competition appear rigged.
  - Rather than a preference for artists within a certain area, some Committee members felt that it should be equally open to everyone within California, or should be limited to Sonoma County.
  - The Committee agreed to delete, “while Sonoma County artists are desirable” from the language with their reasons being forwarded to the Council for their consideration.
- The Committee agreed to revise the third sentence of the first paragraph at the top of page 3, under ‘Selection Process and Criteria’ as follows; “Up to a \$1,000 honorarium will be provided to the selected finalists who chose to continue in the process.”
- The Committee agreed to add the following sentence to the end of the third paragraph on page 3; “Finalists will also be required to make a presentation to an evening community forum.”
- The Committee discussed the Project Timeline and made the following revisions;
  - Submissions Due: 90 days after RFQ release
  - Finalists Selected: 60 days after RFQ responses due
  - Proposal Presentation: 90 days after finalists selected
  - Installation: TBA
- Committee Member Arnold requested that ‘transportation’ be included in the list of project-related expenses in the first paragraph under ‘Budget’.
- The Committee requested that a link to the City’s insurance requirements be included under ‘Budget’.
- Under ‘Submission Requirements’ the Committee agreed to revise the first sentence under ‘3. Digital Images of Past Work.’ to read, “Submit up to ten (10) images of past work.”
- Under ‘Submission Requirements’ the Committee agreed to revise the last sentence under ‘3. Digital Images of Past Work.’ to read, “Images should be original works by the proposing artist(s).”

- Under ‘ Please note:’ the Committee agreed that the second bullet should be revised to read, “Artwork proposals are not required at this time.”

Chair Gordon suggested that a website be used as a channel for submission and cited <https://www.callforentry.org> as one option.

The Committee agreed to forward the revised draft to the City Council for their consideration.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE/STAFF:**

Committee Member Mills-Thysen requested that the following proposal be agendized for future discussion:

- To select and designate a specific site for installation and public viewing of amateur sculpture and other art creations. This could be a sculpture viewing garden located in a local park, plaza, or other city property where residents and out of town visitors can go to enjoy, learn about, and appreciate the creation of this category of art that our town has generated.

Director Webster and the rest of the Committee agreed.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:46 a.m. to the next regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held February 3, 2015 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster  
Planning Director