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**APPROVED MINUTES**

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE  
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
MINUTES OF October 03, 2018

SEBASTOPOL CITY HALL  
7120 BODEGA AVENUE  
10:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:**

The notice of the meeting was posted on September 27, 2018.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Vertz called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**      **Present:**      Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold, Mills-Thysen, and Langberg (arrived at 10:34 a.m.)  
                                 **Absent:**            Chair Gordon (excused)  
                                 **Staff:**              Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director  
                                                    Rebecca Mansour, Planning Technician  
                                                    Dana Morrison, Assistant Planner

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 05, 2018

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

VOTE:            Ayes:            Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold and Mills-Thysen  
                      Noes:            None  
                      Abstain:        None

**4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST:**

Director Svanstrom thanked Chair Vertz and updated the Committee on the following:

- Last night, the City Council worked through another round of Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map updates and completed their first reading of their corresponding ordinances.
  - A second reading of each of the ordinances is scheduled for the City Council meeting on October 16, 2018.
  - The new Zoning Ordinance and Map will go into effect 30 days after the second reading.
  - This is a big milestone after what has been a multi-year effort.
- A Housing Fair will be held on November 4, 2018 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- The Housing Fair will be held at the Sebastopol Community Center which is located at 390 Morris Street.
- The Housing Fair will be open to the public.
- City staff, County staff, and other organizations will be present to help residents who might be interested in accessory dwelling units, junior accessory dwelling units, or some other home-sharing opportunities to try to address the housing needs of our community.
- Requested that Artist Ned Kahn provide the Committee with an update on the status of the first public art project.

Mr. Kahn updated the Committee as follows:

- After jumping through every hoop and having the engineer's sign off on all the drawings, Caltrans has presented one more form for signature.
  - The new form, known as PEER, requires that an engineer sign off on all the liability for this artwork.
  - Mr. Kahn's engineer showed the form to his insurance company and the insurance company said they'd charge him a large sum of money to provide that level of liability insurance for this artwork.
  - Mr. Kahn has been working with the City and with Caltrans in attempting to resolve this issue.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the City has already accepted liability for this piece.

Director Svanstrom commented that she would be scheduling a meeting with Engineering Manager, Henry Mikus, Mr. Kahn, and Mr. Kahn's engineer to figure out the best way to move this project forward.

Mr. Kahn indicated that he'd be willing to take on the liability as well.

Committee Member Langberg suggested that Mr. Kahn get in touch with Senator Mike McGuire, if necessary, as he may be able to get in touch with Caltrans and move this along.

The Committee and Director Svanstrom thanked Mr. Kahn for the update.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- He'd met with the Center for the Arts Board of Directors.
  - All of whom expressed support for the three finalists, Nicole Ponsler, Linda Serrao, and Mike McGinnis.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

Director Svanstrom noted that Presidential alerts were anticipated to begin being sent to cellphones at 11:18 a.m. and could continue for up to a half an hour after that.

- Requested that people either silence or power down their cellphones to avoid interruption.

**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:**

- A. REVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL FOR HOTEL SEBASTOPOL:** This item will review a proposed public art piece at the Hotel Sebastopol (6828/6826/6824 Depot Street). Per the Municipal Code requirements (SMC 17.360), Public Art is required as part of new development projects, which requires review and approval by the City's Public Arts Committee. The Applicant, Piazza Hospitality Group, is proposing a public art installation by the artist Ned Kahn for one of their public art pieces.

Assistant Planner Morrison presented the staff report and was available for questions.

There were no questions of staff.

Chair Vertz asked if the applicant wished to make a presentation.

Brett Jones of David Baker Architects introduced himself and was available for questions.

Artist Ned Kahn gave a brief presentation and was available for questions.

The Committee asked questions of Mr. Kahn and Mr. Jones.

Director Svanstrom asked a question of Mr. Kahn as well.

Chair Vertz asked if members of the public wished to speak on this item.

Hearing none, Chair Vertz closed the public comment period and brought it back to the Committee for discussion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Expressed interest in what this artwork will look like for people who are not at the hotel.
  - While this will be lovely for those that are staying at the hotel, most people will be viewing this either at a distance or as passersby.
  - Interested in seeing renderings of what this artwork will look like for people that are not staying at the hotel.

Chair Vertz commented:

- The proposal is great the way it is.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- The issue of which way the panels will face needs to be resolved.
  - The direction of the panels will make a huge difference on what is seen.
  - One must know where the prevailing winds will come from if this is a wind-activated piece.
  - Would like to have this information prior to voting to approve this project.

Committee Members Langberg, Mills-Thysen and Chair Vertz commented that they were prepared to vote on this application as submitted.

Director Svanstrom interjected that the Board could have the approval subject to staff review.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Asked what would happen to the balance if the required amount of \$250,000 is not used on this project.
  - Based on the figures presented, it appears there will be a balance of about \$30,000.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The applicant has indicated that they want to do additional project(s), but these are not yet defined.
  - Once defined, that project is expected to come before the Committee for review.

Mr. Jones responded:

- The total for this project was likely to exceed the required amount of \$250k.
- If the total does come in at less than the required amount, they intend to make good on their obligation and submit an additional project.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- This is a pretty amazing piece of artwork.
- The way that this artwork is integrated into the architecture is incredible.
- Views coming in slightly under the required amount, if that is the case, as a moot point.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- There is a condition of approval, as well as language in our ordinance, on the applicant being required to submit the signed contract that outlines the costs.
  - At a staff level we will look at whether a balance remains.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- If the final budget is that close, given that the figure itself could almost be considered arbitrary because the final project cost is usually higher than the initial valuation, we should accept this project as having met the requirement.

Mr. Jones approached the Committee and pointed to the updated budget sheet in the packet.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The budget for public artwork in this town is created through projects like these.
- Throwing off \$5k or more is not negligible.

Mr. Jones commented:

- The developer is invested in providing art and is planning on providing additional public artworks on the site that are not tied to the required amount of \$250k.
- The art budget for this project is generous.
- Does not want to shortchange the City.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- If there is a balance, and another artwork is proposed, the artwork should be as public as possible.
- Thanked Mr. Jones for his feedback.
- Agreed with Board Member Langberg on this being a beautiful piece.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to accept the project as proposed assuming Mr. Kahn identifies the best direction for the panels.

Board Member Langberg asked for further discussion prior to the motion.

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative.

Board Member Langberg commented:

- As a member of the Design Review Board he was able to review this entire project.
- The amazing value of this project in our community is the public nature of the whole complex.
- Even though this is a private hotel, there is almost nothing in the complex aside from the hotel rooms that is not public.
- The architects have made an incredible effort to open up the complex in the way they have.
- The other artwork that they're talking about providing could be almost anywhere in this complex and be considered public.
- The design is really open and incredible.
- Mr. Kahn's artwork is considered to be primarily for the hotel guests and yet there are very few people in the hotel that will feel it more than anybody else, it's pretty astounding.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Agreed on this project being very open when compared to other hotels, however, it is still private property and how public it will become in its use remains to be seen.
- The placement of any additional public art would be an important consideration for her.
- Appreciates the openness and beauty of the project as well as their dedication to art.

Director Svanstrom interjected and suggested a couple of modifications to the findings and conditions. They were as follows:

- Findings for Approval #4: That the proposed art piece will be created of durable materials (stainless steel cable and extruded polycarbonate) that will prevent it from weathering and require a low level of maintenance.
- Conditions of Approval #5: The applicant shall submit plans for review and approval to the Planning Department for ongoing maintenance, and/or future modifications of the proposed art piece. This maintenance plan shall address anticipated lifespan of the panel materials and any replacement of the panels as needed.

Director Svanstrom asked Mr. Kahn if he was amenable to those modifications.

Mr. Kahn responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked clarifying questions of staff on the findings and conditions of approval.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded Committee Member Arnold's motion to accept the project as proposed assuming Mr. Kahn identifies the best direction for the panels.

Chair Vertz called for a vote on the motion.

VOTE:	Ayes:	Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold, Mills-Thysen and Langberg
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	Chair Gordon

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### A. PUBLIC ART DISCUSSION WITH FINALISTS FOR LIBRARY PUBLIC ART

**PROJECT:** This item will be an opportunity for the three finalists for the public art project at the Library Site to interact with Committee members to ask questions and get additional feedback related to their proposals as they develop their maquette for the November 7, 2018 presentation to the Public Art Committee and community. Each artist will be allotted 20 minutes for discussion with the Committee.

Director Svanstrom provided a brief introduction.

Chair Vertz asked to hear from Linda Serrao.

Ms. Serrao commented:

- Expressed having no questions for the Committee or staff at this time.
- Available to answer questions and receive Committee feedback.

Committee Member Arnold asked for the dimensions of her artwork.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- It would be a life-size child of about 8 to 10 years old, however, she appears shorter because she is kneeling.
- Based on a Committee comment about having the child fly, as part of the maquette she changed the way she is mounted.
  - Instead of being mounted directly on a pillar, an arch bar will attach to the book that she is on and she will be on top of the book.
  - Her height ultimately depends on the height of the bar.
- Wants her artwork to be accessible, personable and approachable, especially to children.
- The actual height of the artwork is to be determined once details such as how she will be mounted are addressed.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- If mounted on a pillar he suggested the use of a natural stone such as limestone, rather than concrete.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- While the base could be changed, she was suggesting that the girl not be tied to the ground, that instead she be floating from an arched bar.
- Estimated that the artwork would take up at least 3' of the 4' area and would be no more than 5' tall.
- Reiterated her desire to have her artwork accessible to children.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- A fee for the base is not listed.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- The base is included.

Board Member Langberg asked what the arched bar would be made of.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- The arched bar would be made of steel or bronze.
  - Would leave that up to the foundry that she works with.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked for details on the connection between the bar and the ground.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- The arch would connect to a bronze plate that would be bolted to the footing (which would be underground).

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Gophers often undermine sculpture pads.
  - Encouraged the artists to take that into consideration.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- Works with an engineer who will ensure that that does not become an issue.
- Agreed with Committee Member Arnold on natural stone being much nicer than concrete.
- Consistent with her earlier suggestion, the maquette has been designed with an arched bar, not a base.
  - Willing to go back to a base, if that is the consensus of the Committee.
- Does not do her sculptures from enlargements.
  - She will create a unique artwork based on comments at the November meeting, not necessarily based on the maquette.
- Expects everything to be made of bronze except the arched bar, possibly.

Chair Vertz asked if she was proposing changes to the landscaping.

Committee Member Arnold asked if an anti-graffiti coating would be applied.

Ms. Serrao responded in the affirmative and clarified that she was suggesting two different things for the Committee to consider:

- The first being to mount her as she's shown in the picture but with an arched bar instead of a solid base.
- The second being to place her down in the lower landscape area on a pillar base.

Committee Member Arnold responded that the piece should be elevated.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The relationship and interaction between this artwork and the children should be considered.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked how the lighting costs would figure in and stay within the budget.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- Made an error in reading the first part of the RFP which did not mention lighting.
  - Should have paid closer attention when reading further down in the text.
- Lighting is an issue to estimate because she doesn't know where the electrical access is and doesn't know what kind of lighting the City wants (solar or hardwire).

- There are a couple of streetlights nearby and they could provide enough lighting on their own.
- Needs to work to resolve this question surrounding lighting between now and the November meetings.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- All three of the artists could have the same or similar questions on lighting, especially in terms of infrastructure.
  - That is a question for the City to respond to.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Ms. Serrao asked her the question on lighting infrastructure prior to this meeting.
- Will confer with the Public Works Department on the answer and get back to the artists.
- Lighting, as far as what is desired by the artist, should be addressed in each of the proposals.

Ms. Serrao commented:

- If trenching were required, she'd be interested in knowing what landscaping the City would want to save versus what could be removed.

Committee Member Langberg responded that that is another question for the City to answer.

Ms. Ponsler interjected and clarified that the artists should come to the November meetings with their intention for lighting, not the specifics.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Will gather basic information and forward to the artists.
- The artists plan for lighting does need to be included in the budget for the project.

Chair Vertz recalled that the Committee had wanted the artwork to stay within a general area and presented a sketch to demonstrate.

- Projecting out away from the wall, using the arched bar as described, may take the artwork outside the desired area.

Committee Member Arnold concurred.

Ms. Serrao approached the Committee and drew a sketch of what she was proposing.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Unsure on how clear the RFP was in terms of placement.
- Would prefer a straight up sculpture, like what Ms. Serrao originally proposed.
- Anything that would project outside of the desired area, as previously discussed by the Committee, would warrant a little bit of discussion.

Ms. Serrao commented:

- Her change from the pillar to the arched bar was based on Chair Gordon's comments about how nice it'd be if she could fly.

Committee members thanked Ms. Serrao for the explanation of why she made the change that she did.



After additional discussion on mounting and placement, Ms. Serrao commented:

- The mounting has not real effect on the design.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- If there is a base, she'd like it to be more artistic than just a block.
  - The base should be incorporated into the rest of the sculpture as long as it isn't cost prohibitive to do so.

Staff indicated that the allotted time of 20 minutes had expired.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen requested additional time to ask a question of Ms. Serrao.

Chair Vertz granted Committee Member Mills-Thysen additional time.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- One issue that had come up when reviewing the various proposals was surrounding gender and ethnicity.
  - Perhaps not painting this artwork would make it less gender oriented.
  - Urges more inclusion.

Ms. Serrao expressed being amenable to changing the artwork to be less gender oriented if that was the consensus of the Committee.

Chair Vertz asked to hear from Michael McGinnis.

Mr. McGinnis gave a brief presentation, provided maquette's of his past work as well as samples of stainless steel, and commented:

- Interested in hearing what the City's plans are in terms of landscaping for the area.
- There is a dimensional element to his artwork.
- Needs to understand the City's limitations before determining exactly where his artwork would be placed.
- Asked about projecting out further than the 4' strip.

Mr. McGinnis approached the Committee and Chair Vertz outlined the desired area for the artwork to stay within.

Mr. McGinnis comments continued:

- His artwork will be specifically designed for the space once he has received some input, particularly on the importance of the library itself.
- His artwork is a metaphor for the many ways we communicate and where we see our future.
  - The philosophical element of this artwork will be developed over time.
  - This artwork will present a very abstract view of information gathering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- These artworks are extremely strong.

Chair Vertz asked if there would be a base.

Mr. McGinnis responded that that would depend on the surrounding landscape.

Mr. McGinnis responded that he would prefer to have a stainless steel support structure for this piece, if needed.

Committee Member Arnold asked for the depth of the piece.

Mr. McGinnis responded that he would need to know from the City what the allowed area is.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The RFP specifies that the project area is to be contained within the brick planting area.
  - It further specifies that the artwork shall project no more than 4' from the wall.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- This artwork, the nearby apple, and two neighboring shrubs/trees are all round in shape.
  - Questioned how Mr. McGinnis envisioned dealing with that in terms of the size and location of his artwork.

Mr. McGinnis responded:

- The predominate visual is the gigantic rectangular wall.
- The shrubs/trees come and go in their shape and are not perfectly round.
- While not perfectly round, he would want his artwork to have a general roundness to it.
- If the shrubs/trees need to remain, his artwork will have to be balanced higher up within the rectangle.
  - Conversely, if the shrubs/trees were to be removed, higher up wouldn't look quite right.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- The assumption should be that there will be landscaping.
  - There will be some flexibility in how the shrubs/trees can be trimmed down.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Bringing the piece out will cast wonderful shadows, with sunlight as well as moonlight or other sources of night lighting.

Mr. McGinnis concurred.

Staff indicated that the allotted time of 20 minutes had expired.

Board Member Langberg asked if the artwork could be mounted directly onto the wall.

Mr. McGinnis responded that that would be his preference.

Committee Member Arnold asked what the weight of the piece would be.

Mr. McGinnis responded that the weight could be easily calculated once he knew the number of pieces that would be used.

Director Svanstrom requested that the artist's submit specific questions on attachments, footings, lighting, electrical access, etc. to staff by end of day tomorrow in order for her to get back to the artists with answers the following week.

Director Svanstrom noted that allotted time had expired and requested that the Committee hear from the next artist.

Chair Vertz asked to hear from Nicole Ponsler.

Ms. Ponsler commented:

- Thanked staff for including a link to the video of the prior meeting as she found watching the it really helpful.
- Most of her questions pertain to landscaping and lighting.
- All of her murals are sealed with a product called GCP1000 from a company called Genesis Coatings.
  - The product is UV protectant and graffiti resistant.
  - Has never had a mural that has been graffitied.
  - If it were to be graffitied it could be removed with dish soap.
  - The coating must be sandblasted to be removed.
  - The coating involves a one-time application process with two coats being applied.
- Spoke on past works and their ability to stand up in extreme environments.
- Uses Nova Color UV resistant color paint.
- Her work is quite archival.
- Because she only uses products that are the most archival and the most UV resistant, her work does not fade.

Chair Vertz asked how big the mural would be.

Ms. Ponsler responded that it would occupy the entire wall.

Chair Vertz noted that banners are sometimes hung along that wall by the library.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would look into whether or not that was expected to continue and how that may impact the chosen project.

Chair Vertz asked if Ms. Ponsler would be painting directly onto the aluminum panels.

Ms. Ponsler responded:

- Based on the RFP she understood that she'd need to paint it off-site and have it installed upon completion.
- With one exception, she's painted every mural she's ever done on-site.
- Prefers on-site for community involvement, especially when talking about a library space in such a central part of the community.
- In her proposal she is proposing to paint it off-site and bring it in on aluminum panels to be installed.
- One issue with doing on-site is that she needs to be able to stand back about a block to view it throughout her process due to its scale.
- Reiterated her preference to paint it on-site.
- The area is pretty shallow.
- May be more archival to install it subsequently on the aluminum panels.
- Anticipates leaving a gap between the wall and the panels for water to shed.

Committee Member Langberg responded:

- The existing battens will create that gap between the wall and the panels.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Removable aluminum panels could allow for relocation of the mural should the library change at some point in the future.
- Thanked and commended all of the artists.
- Sebastopol is home to the original Luther Burbank Farm.
  - Luther Burbank was the greatest plants person in the history of the United States.
  - Suggested that Ms. Ponsler incorporate Luther Burbank's creations, such as the Shasta daisy or Santa Rosa Plum, instead of succulents.

Ms. Ponsler responded that she loved Committee Member Arnold's idea.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Beneficial insects, such as bees, could be used as well.
- Suggested that Ms. Ponsler go online to discover more about the work that Luther Burbank is known for.
- Succulents can be found in Sonoma County but they're mostly along the coast.

Ms. Ponsler commented that she loved the specificity of tying it in to the area thanked Committee Member Arnold for that suggestion.

Mr. McGinnis interjected that there is some controversy surrounding Luther Burbank at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Likes Committee Member Arnold's idea.
- Seems as though the image that she submitted in her proposal is somewhat changeable.
- Wants something that is calm and some of the images of her past work aren't.
- Pleaded for calmness.
- Questioned the scale of some of the very, very large birds that she depicted.
- Questioned the use of hummingbirds in terms of locale.

Ms. Ponsler responded:

- The bulk of her portfolio is energetic which she prides herself on.
- People respond to the energetic nature and aesthetic of her artwork, especially when it's public.
- If it was the consensus of the entire Committee, she could look at doing something that is more subdued.
  - She would not consider that the best use of her skillset.
- Questions the flexibility of the landscape.
  - May alter the composition of her artwork due to the landscaping.
  - Sounds like the two shrubs/trees need to remain.

Committee Member Arnold responded:

- The previous Planning Director indicated that the two shrubs/trees could be moved.

Director Svanstrom responded that she was not wedded to the current landscape.

Committee Member Langberg commented that the selected project may bring about changes to the landscape.

Chair Vertz clarified that Ms. Ponsler was talking about compositional tweaks based on the landscape.

Ms. Ponsler concurred.

Ms. Ponsler commented:

- Likes having the mural feel like children's book illustrations.

Director Svanstrom commented that Ms. Ponsler could chose to paint the panels off-site somewhere else in Sebastopol.

Ms. Ponsler expressed being open to that.

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

**11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** There were none.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Vertz adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 12:32 p.m. to the regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held November 07, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom  
Planning Director