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UNAPPROVED DRAFT MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
 CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 MINUTES OF November 07, 2018

SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 282 South High Street
 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on November 01, 2018.

6:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE WITH THE ARTISTS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL:**

Present:	Chair Gordon, Vice Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold, Mills-Thysen, and Langberg
Absent:	None
Staff:	Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director Rebecca Mansour, Planning Technician Dana Morrison, Assistant Planner

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. REVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS:** Finalists were selected at the September 05, 2018, Public Arts Committee meeting to proceed in the review process for a new public art project at the Sebastopol Public Library in Sebastopol. Each artist will make a presentation, and there will also be opportunity for public comments and questions to the artists. The Public Arts Committee will not make a selection recommendation at this meeting but is expected to do so at their December 5, 2018 meeting. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council, who will make a final decision on the matter.

Director Svanstrom explained the selection process as well as the format for tonight's meeting.

Chair Gordon asked for a presentation by Ms. Serrao.

Ms. Serrao gave a brief presentation.

Mr. McGinnis gave a brief presentation.

At the request of Chair Gordon, Mr. McGinnis and Ms. Serrao spoke on their background as an artist.

At the request of Chair Gordon, Ms. Serrao and Mr. McGinnis spoke on lighting for their artwork.

Comments from Ms. Serrao included:

- Images of what the site looks like at night show that it is surprisingly well lit.
- Additional lighting appears to be unnecessary.

Comments from Mr. McGinnis included:

- Concurred with Ms. Serrao.
- Because this is a south facing wall, the moonlight will never be on the backside of the building.
 - A metallic piece, like his, will have a shimmering quality on a moonlit night.
- Sunlight will cast very distinct patterns on his piece.
- There are plenty of light sources in the vicinity.
 - It would be a shame to add a static light source.
- Lighting for sculptures can be complex.
- Reiterated that additional lighting does not seem necessary.

Chair Gordon asked to hear from members of the public.

A member of the public asked about the scale of Mr. McGinnis' piece.

Mr. McGinnis responded:

- The piece is large to offset the giant rectangular wall behind it.
- The piece would work well if it were small too.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- The child would be life-size.
- Total height from the base to the top of the child's head is about five feet.

A member of the public commented:

- Intrigued by the kinetic aspects of Mr. McGinnis' piece.
- Even in the mediocre light of this room, Mr. McGinnis' piece appears to have three levels of lighting in it.
 - Understands what will happen with sunlight and moonlight.
- Mr. McGinnis' piece would be nice to look at while moving slowly through traffic in the area, as is often the case.
- Mr. McGinnis has created a static piece that can be appreciated kinetically.

Mr. McGinnis responded:

- The lighting in this room is flat and the appearance of the maquette represents how the piece will look on a cloudy day.
- Certain types of lighting will cast very elongated and intense shadows.

- The shimmering of the hand sanded stainless steel that he uses is meant to depict a feeling of liveliness and kineticism.
 - While most of his work has a kinetic feature, this one does not.
- Kinetic artwork, in the long run, has the chance of breaking down.
- His goal is to give it a feeling of energy without having physical movement.

A member of the public directed the following comments to Ms. Serrao:

- Moved to Sebastopol from Santa Fe.
- In Santa Fe there was a local artist to did artworks of happy children.
 - The artworks were strategically placed to be discovered and were always available for children to touch.
 - The artist's work was creative and important to the Santa Fe community.
- Ms. Serrao's artwork feels nostalgic to her.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- It is important to get children involved so they can see how wonderful art can be.

Mr. McGinnis responded:

- Anytime an artist makes art that is allowed to be touched there is the risk of somebody getting hurt and/or of the piece getting worn out.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- If bronze wears down it has to do with the foundry and the way it was cast.
- Bronze should not wear down.
- Artwork should be touched, when it can be.

At the request of Director Svanstrom, Ms. Serrao and Mr. McGinnis spoke on how their pieces would fit in with the surrounding landscape.

Mr. McGinnis commented:

- Understands that the existing landscape will remain, however, over time the landscaping may change.
- Both of these artworks (his and Ms. Serrao's) are lifetime pieces.
- The plants are a temporary living form right now.
 - Maybe in twenty years they'll change.
- As an artist, the space where the piece is located becomes within the purview of the people who take care of the landscaping.
- His neighbor commented that it could be cool to have vines growing in his piece.

Ms. Serrao added:

- The trees can be pruned as needed.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon asked if members of the Committee had further questions of Mr. McGinnis or Ms. Serrao.

Hearing none, Director Svanstrom commented that a break didn't appear to be needed.

Chair Gordon commented:

- The Committee spend a couple of hours this morning asking questions of Mr. McGinnis and Ms. Serrao.
- Encouraged members of the public to communicate their feedback and provide input.

- The maquette's will be on display at the library through the Thanksgiving holiday. - -
- Comment cards will be available.
- The Committee will take all input received and incorporate it into their decision-making process before making a recommendation to the City Council who will make the final decision.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked members of the public what their ideas were about public art, what they'd like to see, what it should do, or be about.

A member of the public responded:

- Likes art that looks like it will last.
- While walking around town she's observed some art that is in poor shape.
- Maintenance, if part of the agreement, doesn't appear to be happening on some pieces.
- A commitment to maintaining whatever it is that we have installed in the city.
- Spoke on the controversial bathtub art proposal in Petaluma.

Ms. Serrao responded:

- Nothing hurts an artist more than seeing their work go without maintenance.
- An artist gets really attached to their work and they want to see it last and be well taken care of.

Chair Gordon expounded on the controversy over the large-scale public art project in Petaluma.

Mr. McGinnis commented:

- Spoke on the public art project in Petaluma as well.
- Funding to the arts is so minimal.
- It's incredible that Sebastopol does what it does in terms of art.
- Considers Sebastopol a sculpture-city.
- Appreciates Sebastopol for its commitment to the arts.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if members of the public had further questions or comments.

Hearing none, Chair Gordon commented:

- That was terrific.
- Thanked Mr. McGinnis and Ms. Serrao.
- Encouraged as much input as possible between now and the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - The maquette's will be on display at the library.
 - Comment cards will be available.
 - Everyone's opinion is valued and important.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Spoke on opportunities for public comment.
- Those interested in being notified of the selected project once that decision has been made can provide their email address to her and she will notify them.

- 5. ADJOURNMENT:** Committee Member Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion. Chair Gordon adjourned the special meeting of the Public Arts Committee at 7:14 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting to be held December 05, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., at the Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director