



Committee Member Stucker made a motion to approve the minutes of July 06, 2020 as submitted.

Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion.

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

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Director Svanstrom indicated that no members of the public were in attendance.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The City Council has received some comments regarding the 'Black Lives Matter' mural.
- Would be happy to forward those comments to the Committee if those are an item of interest them.
- A couple of people expressed having additional art ideas that they may want to bring before the Committee.
- Similar to the BLM mural, which first went to Council who authorized the project and asked them to come before the Committee, members of the public can also start with this Committee with suggestions of their own. Any project would need to be authorized and approved by both the Public Arts Committee as well as the City Council.
- No individual has come forward with a formal proposal at this time.

**5. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**6. REGULAR AGENDA:**

- A. Possible expansion of Public Arts Committee

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that this came up during her recent interview with the Council so she may be able to provide some insight on it too.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- The Committee tried operating as a larger group before and it did not work.
- It was harder to get a quorum.
- The ideas were so many that they could not really focus on their work.
- After that, the Committee dropped down to 5 members.

Chair Vertz thanked Committee Member Arnold for his comments and asked Associate Planner Montes for his presentation on this item.

Associate Planner Montes presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- During her interview, the Council asked for her thoughts on expanding the Committee.
- Her response was:

- She did not think it was a good idea to expand, especially not at this time, because she feels that the current Committee is one of the most effective and helpful groupings of people that has been on the Committee in her experience.
- The Committee is a working group that supports each other in ideas and in very positive projects.
- Afterwards she had suggested that interested persons may be able to become non-voting members of a subcommittee which could be helpful to the Committee in terms of publicizing items, making contacts, etc.
- Otherwise, she would tend to agree with Committee Member Arnold in that adding more members would not be helpful to the functioning of the Public Arts Committee.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Acknowledged City staff for their incredible patience.
- It sounds like one of the primary reasons behind the Council's proposal to potentially expand the PAC is to allow highly qualified candidates.
  - That in and of itself is not enough of a reason to expand it.
- Concurred with what both Vice Chair Mills-Thysen and Committee Member Arnold said about numbers.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen's suggestion to allow other community members to potentially serve on a subcommittee, depending on what the topics of those subcommittees are, is a great idea.
  - It would be helpful for the Committee to have some idea of what the community members skill sets, or experiences are related to public art.
  - If we have a pool of people that we are drawing from to form a subcommittee, or if expanding the Committee, the total should be an odd number for potential tiebreakers.

Committee Member Langberg asked how long a term is for the Public Arts Committee.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that the term is 4 years.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Agreed on the Committee not needing to be expanded.
- More people could muddy the water, make things take longer, and not necessarily add to the discussion.
- If there are a lot of people interested, then members who have been on the Committee a long time, even if they are very effective members, should consider not running again.
- The more people you have involved in a City process the better the community generally is.
- Means no disrespect to long-term members of the Committee.
- People who stay on a board for a long time get entrenched in a certain way and keep a seat from opening for someone else.
- The City Council loves to reappointment members who they know are effective.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Asked if adding volunteers would affect the Brown Act in terms of the number of people that can meet at any one time.
- In response to Committee Member Langberg, the City's website lists the lengths of service and all are different as are their roles.
- Already said how he feels.
- The Committee should stay at 5 members.

- Thanked the Committee for their time.

Chair Vertz asked Committee Member Arnold how many members the Committee tried expanding it to before.

Committee Member Arnold responded:

- They tried expanding the Committee to 7 members.
- The Committee became unwieldy with 7 members and they got less accomplished.

Chair Vertz commented that she could imagine how the length of the meeting would go on a lot longer too with more members.

Committee Member Arnold responded in the affirmative and commented:

- People have divergent ideas and having 7 members instead of 5 became very difficult.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- There was more turnover when the Committee had 7 members, it was less stable.

Committee Member Arnold concurred and commented that people quit.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Expressed agreement with her fellow committee members.
- Could see the process becoming a bit more convoluted with 7 members.
- Appreciates Committee Member Langberg's comment.
- After this term she may consider stepping down as she has been on the Committee for a long time and fresh blood is always a really great thing.
- There are a lot of other qualified people out there that could do some great work on this committee.
- The Public Arts Committee is becoming more and more functional as a 5-person group.
- Because this is really starting to work, she would hate to have to start over with 7 members.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested that the Committee find out, as Committee Member Arnold suggested, what the parameters would be to having non-voting members on subcommittees.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- In terms of having subcommittees, there is no Brown Act issue as long as they aren't appointed decision making members, as this Committee is.
- The City has a several of working subcommittees that are working on various projects right now.
- The City has a Zero Waste Subcommittee, which is a Council subcommittee that has one or two members of the Council so there are no quorum issues. The rest of the members are members of the public which is a really good way to harness some of the excitement and energy in the art community potentially to help leverage the Public Arts Committee's time and resources while working on various projects.
- Reiterated that there would be no Brown Act issue with a subcommittee.
- The Council was a bit torn because of the quality of the candidates and wanted a way for those candidates to engage.
- Staff can provide the application forms for the candidates to the Public Arts Committee as they are public information.

- Appreciates the sentiments of the Public Arts Committee and their recommendation on the size of the committee.
- As a further recommendation, if there is a way to involve more people that are interested in arts and Sebastopol, doing so would be very simpatico with the volunteerism and the grassroots that Sebastopol is known for.
- Requested that the Committee spend some time discussing ways to involve more people as an option.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- It is a reflection on the venue of the Committee and on the current Committee that there has been more generated interest.
- For a while there were no other people, or very few people applying.
- This interest is a positive thing to see.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- One of the things inviting others into the Public Arts Committee subcommittee would help do is, the subcommittee members would be the leaders of the subcommittee and the subcommittee would provide direction to the Public Arts Committee.
- Hearing from the Committee that an expanded Public Arts Committee may become more difficult to manage and may be less functional.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Would support a subcommittee of the Public Arts Committee.
- That could potentially be very constructive for the Committee as a whole, particularly if we start to have quite a few projects on tap that have not been brought to closure yet.
- Asked staff how many potential candidates the Council was talking about.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded that she believed there were four candidates total, so three other people plus herself.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold expressed having no further comment on this item.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Having a subcommittee is a fine idea.
- Echoed Committee Member Stucker's comments.
- A subcommittee would be a great way for the Committee to get help and for more people to get involved.

Chair Vertz concurred and commented:

- It may be helpful for the Committee to understand more about these candidates and what projects they are interested in working on so they know where to put them in a subcommittee.
- It would not make sense to put somebody in a subcommittee for a certain project if they had no interest in it.
- Has been looking to work with one of the candidates that applied for years as an artist.
- Would love the opportunity to work with some of these people.
- Would be great to have some of these people in the Committee's arsenal.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked a procedural question of staff.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The Council is looking for a recommendation from this body.
- It sounds like the consensus of the Committee is not to expand, but to have a way to invite interested persons into subcommittees of the Public Arts Committee.
- Would the Committee want that to be a formal application process or an open invite?
- Council subcommittees are ad hoc, meaning they are there for a certain amount of time while a project is going on, and then go away once said project is complete.
- The City can do a simple application process for members of the subcommittee.
- This could be handled one of two ways. The first would be to use the existing applicant pool given that the Council felt that were well qualified, other interested persons could be invited to apply too.
- The application period would be open for a certain amount of time, typically about 4 weeks.
- The opening could be advertised via the City newsletter.
- The other way of handling it would be to have more structured subcommittee meetings where they are open meetings that are posted to the website and anyone can come and join. These may be more unruly in terms of their being able to be focused and assign tasks to people.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if subcommittees could be informal as they are now if they had more members.

Director Svanstrom responded that they could be.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that her impression is that all members of the Committee do not want to expand the number of members on the Public Arts Committee.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Staff can summarize the Public Arts Committees recommendation in terms of the official PAC membership.
- If the Committee can discuss inviting members of the public in for subcommittees, at either this meeting if they're ready, or the next, and provide direction to staff, staff can write that up as a recommendation to Council as well.
- All of that could come back to the Committee for a formal signoff before staff would bring it to Council.
- Staff would request that a liaison from the Public Arts Committee attend the Council meeting so they could answer any questions the Council may have.

Chair Vertz asked if the Committee could get some information on the people who applied to be on the Public Arts Committee, or what the application process might look like, to better inform their discussion?

Director Svanstrom responded:

- The interviews are available to watch in the City meeting video archive from July 08, 2020.
- All four of the applications are available on the City's website as well.
- The applicants were Committee Member Mills-Thysen, Robert Brent, Deborah Kirkland and Barbara Harris.

Chair Vertz thanked Director Svanstrom for that information.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with Chair Vertz on wanting more information on the applicants before deciding on what their recommendation to Council will be. She noted that there may be other people that are interested in serving as well, if/when an application process opens.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Does not understand why that is important.
- There are people out there who we know are interested.
- There may be more.
- Let us come up with a process to invite them in.
- This is straightforward.
- The Public Arts Committee is going to have a project to work on at some point where they might want to involve people, they might want help.
- It would be good to come up with a process to address that type of situation.

Committee Member Stucker concurred with Committee Member Langberg and made a motion for the Public Arts Committee to inform the City Council that they would be willing to start a pool of volunteers from the city of Sebastopol which would include recent applicants for potential committee positions.

Chair Vertz asked Committee Member Stucker what he meant by "potential committee positions."

Director Svanstrom responded that she understood Committee Member Stucker to say, "potential subcommittee positions."

Chair Vertz asked for a second to that motion, or for discussion of the motion.

Committee Member Arnold asked for discussion of the motion and commented:

- The Committee should have staff summarize what they can and send a draft of that to the Committee before there is a motion to recommend anything to Council.
- Some of the names that Director Svanstrom read have been turned down by the Council when they have applied and on multiple occasions.
- We should be more careful about the collegiality of the committee.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- In his experience with Robert's Rules of Order, a motion should be seconded before any discussion, and possible defeat, can occur.

Director Svanstrom clarified that the motion should be seconded before discussion, otherwise the motion fails.

Chair Vertz asked for a second to the motion as made by Committee Member Stucker.

Without a member willing to second the motion the motion failed.

Chair Vertz asked if the Committee wished to do what Committee Member Arnold suggested which was to have staff summarize and send a draft for Committee consideration prior to sending any recommendation to Council.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Concurred with that approach.
- The Committee has several other things on the agenda today.

Chair Vertz concurred with Vice Chair Mills-Thysen.

Director Svanstrom commented that Chair Vertz can request a motion to continue this item, and a second, and asked that the motion include direction to staff.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to continue this item to allow staff to return to the Committee with a draft recommendation to Council based on their discussion during this meeting.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

Committee Member Langberg asked if the motion could include a statement that the Committee recommends against expanding the Committee?

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed support for that.

Director Svanstrom commented that it would seem to make sense to include it all together, however noting that Committee Member Arnold would need to amend his motion if that was the consensus of the Committee.

Committee Member Langberg commented that he was fine leaving as is by continuing this item and including that as part of the final recommendation to Council.

Director Svanstrom commented that the item will be continued with staff to return with the information that has been discussed for further discussion at the next meeting, and asked Committee Member Arnold if that was consistent with the motion he made.

Committee Member Arnold responded in the affirmative and requested that staff provide a written summary to members of the Committee before their next meeting.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Committee Member Arnold if he was amending his motion per Committee Member Langberg's suggested statement?

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Staff will write up a draft recommendation for the Public Arts Committee, based on their discussions today, to review and vote on.
- Once finalized by the Committee, staff will bring their recommendation to Council.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if there would be communication to the City Council about the fact that the Committee does not agree with expansion and that the Committee is interested in further exploring the subcommittee option, prior to the Committee taking final action on this?

Director Svanstrom responded that that could be done now, or the Committee could wait until they have further ideas about how the subcommittee would work.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed a desire to communicate that to the Council now, and then move forward once they are provided with additional information.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Asked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen why she felt the need to communicate that to the Council before final action by the Committee is taken.
- Does not see the urgency if this is to return to the Committee next month.

- Expressed support for forwarding their recommendation all at once.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that waiting would result in things moving more slowly and advocated for communicating that now so their communication can be quick and clear.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Committee Member Arnold if he would be willing to amend his motion.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he already made a motion to continue this item to allow staff to return to the Committee with a draft recommendation to Council based on their discussion (leave the Committee and 5 members with support for exploration of creating subcommittees to involve interested persons) during this meeting.

Director Svanstrom confirmed that Committee Member Arnold's motion does not include a separate statement being sent to Council before the final recommendation has been agreed upon.

Chair Vertz asked for a second to Committee Member Arnold's motion.

Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion.

Chair Vertz asked for further discussion.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen reiterated her request to communicate that to the Council now, and then move forward once they are provided with additional information.

Chair Vertz noted that an archive of this meeting is available for Council to review, if they're interested in knowing where the Committee stands before a formal recommendation makes its way to them.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Planning staff typically sends a summary email to Council after each public meeting.
- Staff can let the Council know that the Committee is amid discussions, looking at inviting people into subcommittees opposed to expansion, and expects to bring a recommendation to the Council after next month's meeting.

Chair Vertz asked for a vote on the motion which was made by Committee Member Arnold and seconded by Committee Member Langberg.

The Committee voted on the motion as follows:

VOTE:	Ayes:	Chair Vertz, and Committee Member Arnold and Langberg
	Noes:	Vice Chair Mills-Thysen and Committee Member Stucker
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

The motion passed.

## B. Support for artists during Covid-19

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she sent the draft proposal to the Committee and asked if everyone received it.

All members indicated having received the draft proposal except for Committee Member Arnold who indicated that he had not received it.

Director Svanstrom asked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen to provide an overview of the draft proposal.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen provided an overview.

The Committee discussed materials, access, and procedures for packets moving forward.

Associate Planner Montes forwarded the draft proposal to Committee Member Arnold for his reference and Director Svanstrom did a screen share of it.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he received the draft proposal but could not give the Committee a reaction to it as he would need time to review it.

Committee Member Arnold asked where the \$1,000 would come from.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that it would come from the Public Art Fund.

Committee Member Langberg asked if the total funds contributed would be \$1,000.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- \$1,000 was the amount that the Committee suggested.
- For the Black Lives Matter graphic a small amount of money was put out with more offered for a mural.
- \$1,000 for this is a moderate amount.

Committee Member Langberg concurred.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Thanked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen for drafting this proposal.
- Appreciates the thoughtfulness of the proposal.
- The proposal makes sense to him.
- Understands that the \$1,000 could potentially be divided in two or four gifts depending on the number of applicants that qualify.
- If an applicant qualifies and can demonstrate that they have a higher need, would they be weighed differently in the lottery than an applicant who demonstrates a lesser need?

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that Committee Member Stucker raised a good question.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- In response to the question about the artist being willing to have the Committee list their name and display a photograph, he asked if this would be on the City's website.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that it could be on the City's website and noted that that is something the Committee would need to determine.

Chair Vertz noted that that would be an option for the artists, if they wished to promote themselves, not a requirement.

Committee Member Langberg reiterated that his question is where that information would be posted, where it would be visible to the public.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that that would be up to the Committee.

Committee Member Langberg asked if their artwork would be displayed inside or outside the Sebastopol Library?

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that that could depend on the type of art, timing, etc.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Thanked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen for all her hard work on this draft proposal.
- Would love to see this happen sooner rather than later.
- The Committee has been talking about wanting to help local artists since the beginning of the pandemic (which was back in March/April).
- This should not be continually pushed back.
- People need help now.
- Would prefer two \$500 gifts, rather than four \$250 gifts.
- Things are expensive here.
- Loves what Vice Chair Mills-Thysen did with this proposal.
- Loves the fact that the Committee can do something to help.
- Catherine from the Center for the Arts was very excited and thought this is a great idea.
- Has a good feeling about this.
- Thinks people will be more than happy to help the Committee get the word out about this.
- Committee Member Stucker brought up a good and very relevant point on how the Committee will pick who gets the gift, especially if they get a huge number of applicants.
- The Committee needs to establish clear parameters for selecting who gets an award.
- Or the Committee could hold a lottery where all qualified applicants are included, and names are drawn from a hat.
- Because we do not want to drag this on, a random lottery may be the way to go.

Committee Member Arnold asked how a person would demonstrate their need as indicated under the eligibility section of the proposal.

Chair Vertz commented that that was one of the questions she had when working with Vice Chair Mills-Thysen on this as members of the subcommittee.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that that is an important question and there has to be a way to demonstrate that so the Committee can ensure that the funds are going to where they are intended and where they are needed.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Suggested that the following statement be added to the proposal, "We understand that the pandemic has caused you to lose opportunities to market your work and we understand you might be in need, therefor this is open to you."
- Suggested that the artists listed under Sonoma County Art Trails and Art at the Source receive the invitation to apply.
- This is too much information and will be too difficult to follow.
- We know people are in need, lets open it up for applications to the lottery.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Committee Member Arnold if, in his view, there would be any opportunity for artists not on the Sonoma County Art Trails or Art at the Source list to apply.

Committee Member Arnold responded:

- Probably and noted students who are currently attending SRJC and SSU remotely may be hurting too.
- At some point we must limit it.
- We have already limited it to Sebastopol which makes sense because this funding is coming from projects in Sebastopol.
- Most people who rely on income, even if it is supportive income, are hurting now.
- There is no opportunity for artists to sell their artwork right now.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Appreciates Committee Member Arnold's suggested statement to the artists.
- Thanked Committee Member Arnold for making those points.
- Strongly agrees with Chair Vertz on wanting to move forward.
- The lottery approach, rather than weighing applications, would allow the process to move much quicker.
- It might make sense to limit the applications to the list of artists we have already received.
- Not sure what to say about the students, perhaps they would have to prove that art is their major.
- Supports granting two \$500 awards.
- Asked for suggestions on timeframe and how to realize that.

Chair Vertz responded that it would be really nice to get this over to Catherine with the Center for the Arts soon so the Committee can have a month to receive entries and grant the awards by their next meeting.

Director Svanstrom noted that this will need to go to Council for approval before anything can be sent out to artists.

Committee Member Langberg agreed on their being urgency, however noting that Covid-19 is not going away. Regardless of when this is done, the money will be happily received.

Chair Vertz asked Director Svanstrom if something could be put together to send to Council in a couple weeks.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if Director Svanstrom could suggest some tentative dates for this to be brought to Council.

Director Svanstrom responded that the next Council meeting that would be available would be on September 1, 2020.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she hears what Committee Member Langberg is saying, however she disagreed with him on timeframe as she believed it should move forward as soon as possible.

Committee Member Langberg expressed being fine with working more expeditiously on this.

Chair Vertz responded that she is seeing this issue as more dire given that a number of government assistance programs and protections that were established in response to the pandemic have run out and have not yet been, or may not be renewed.

Chair Vertz asked staff if the Committee could forward a simple request to the City Council for the Committee to use money from the Public Art Fund to grant two \$500 awards to struggling artists due to the pandemic. If approved by the Council at their meeting on September 1, the Committee could work on simplifying and finalizing the letter and move forward with it.

Director Svanstrom commented that the Committee could authorize representatives from the Committee to finalize the proposal and present to Council in for their meeting on September 1, 2020.

Chair Vertz asked if making a request for permission to grant two \$500 awards was too simple.

Director Svanstrom responded that that is too simple and commented that the Council will want to know more about the process and criteria, ensuring that artist is their main profession, etc.

Members of the Committee discussed process with staff.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that the Committee recruit Catherine from the Center for the Arts to help them in identifying a few artists that are in need, rather than doing the letter process that the Committee has been discussing which will be costly and will cause more of a slowdown. The artists that Catherine helps the Committee identify could then be awarded the funds if/when the Council approves it.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Based on her discussion with Catherine, she already has an idea of an artists that needs this.
- She does not love the idea of this being left up to Catherine as this is something that the Public Arts Committee is doing, not the Center for the Arts.
- A lottery, regardless of the number of applications received, seems to be the way to go.

Committee Member Langberg commented that it would be great for Catherine to help the Committee in identifying artists in need.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Concurred with Chair Vertz.
- This is an effort by the Public Arts Committee to support local artists.
- Catherine said she would assist the Committee in their effort.
- It seems like Committee Member Arnold is describing a different project.

Committee Member Arnold clarified that he is talking about the same project, he is only suggesting that the method of communication change.

Chair Vertz suggested that discussion of this continue at their next meeting.

The Committee concurred.

#### C. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the revised proposal had been sent to the Committee.

Committee Member Arnold indicated that he did not receive it with his packet.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked for commented on the updated proposal.

Director Svanstrom suggested that this item be continued to the next meeting due to the limited amount of time that the Committee has, along with the fact that Committee Member Arnold has not seen the revised proposal as he is a member of the subcommittee.

If this is to be continued, Vice Chair Mills-Thysen requested that members send in their comments on the proposal before the next meeting, if possible, so they may use their meeting time more efficiently. She added that, while not urgent, she would like to keep moving this item along.

Chair Vertz concurred in that the Committee wants to keep moving forward on this.

Members of the Committee expressed support for continuing this item to their next meeting and stated that they would send written comment on the proposal to her in advance of their next meeting.

#### D. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee

Chair Vertz commented:

- Does not have much to update on this currently.
- There is contention surrounding whether to include the artwork on Florence Avenue.
- The app is up and running.
- Unsure if Committee Member Langberg has uploaded his photos to the site yet.
- Undecided about promoting the app.
- Residents of Florence Avenue do not want more cars on their street right now.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Still needs to upload his photos to the site.
- Suggested that this be revisited in a few months to discuss if there is anything further the Committee wants to do about it.

#### E. Black Lives Matter Mural Project

Chair Vertz commented:

- Before the community day of painting she wrote a letter to Director Svanstrom asking about event notification to the Committee, which she did not hear back from her on.

- Did not believe she was meant to be tasked with notification of the event to the Committee.
- After running into Committee Member Langberg on the street, she got the impression that the Committee was not notified of the event.

Director Svanstrom noted that the event was advertised in the City newsletter and apologized for not notifying the Committee directly.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Really sorry to hear that.
- The Council and Mayor came out.
- The kids were really hard working.
- The graphic looks great.
- They kept it professional and clean.
- The first day they painted the letters.
- The second day they added handprints from the community.
- Somehow a lot of people found out.
- Super sad that the entire Public Arts Committee didn't know about the event.
- There was a line that went from the plaza, down to McKinley, up to Main Street, and was wrapped around the corner for probably 3 hours to place their handprint on the concrete. It was beautiful.
- She encountered one woman who had somewhat of a problem with it, so she referred them to members of the Council who were nearby.
  - The woman went over and had a calm discussion with members of the Council about her concerns.
- There was a lot of love and people were really thankful.
- Unfortunately, it was vandalized a couple of days ago.
  - Somebody spray painted the word, 'all' over the word, 'black'.
  - She, and others from the group, are going to touch it up using some leftover paint that they have.
- Other than that, it was a really positive experience for the kids.
- The kids got on the City Council meeting last night and thanked Council during public comment.
- Sorry the Committee missed the event.
- Would be happy to meet members of the Committee at the plaza and let them use some of the leftover paint to place their handprint like so many others from the community did.

Committee Member Langberg thanked Chair Vertz for that offer.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Would like to add his handprint.
- Found out about the project by reading about it in the Press Democrat on Saturday or Sunday.
- Appreciates Chair Vertz's additional comments and detail about the event itself.

Committee Member Langberg suggested that the whole Committee meet down there at the same time to add their handprints together.

Committee Member Stucker expressed support for that.

Director Svanstrom reiterated her apology for not sending out that announcement and clarified that event announcements or attendance, particularly after a decision has been

made by the Committee, or on matters unrelated to City business but related to art (i.e., an art show or other event) would not constitute a meeting of the Committee or violate the Brown Act so long as official Committee business is not discussed.

Chair Vertz thanked Director Svanstrom for that clarification.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Chair Vertz if there is a provision to deal with future vandalism.

Chair Vertz responded:

- Does not think that that is something the City wants to take on.
- All the kids involved in the project are in high school or are incoming freshman and are busy with the start of the school year.
- When the vandalism first happened, they went out to make it a bit better, but the kids were all busy.
- Received word from the City that they wanted the vandalism to be covered up better.
- Hoping no dramatic vandalism occurs.
- Can fix up little stuff like this easily.
- Larger cities will deal with vandalism themselves instead of making the artists fix it.
- At this point it is up to the group to fix the vandalism.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested that the Committee come up with a long-range plan on how to deal with vandalism in the future.

Chair Vertz commented that she will reach out about scheduling a time and date to meet up with the Committee to place their handprint, if so desired, as members of the Committee deserve to have them on there too.

Members of the Committee thanked Chair Vertz for the opportunity.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The City has received a few public comments about feeling it should be an 'All Lives Matter' graphic and that it was not necessarily appropriate.
- Those comments have been passed on to the Council as they were the decision-making body.
- Art can be controversial.
- There have been expressions of support for the graphic as well.

Chair Vertz commented that she did not hear negative comments during public comment during last night's Council meeting which was nice given that negative comments were expressed at the prior Council meeting.

Director Svanstrom commented that the Black Lives Visibility Team representatives that spoke during last night's Council meeting were very well-spoken.

Chair Vertz concurred and commented that they are incredibly professional, really wonderful young women, who she is proud to have gotten to know and work with.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if the Committee is supposed to discuss a potential mural.

Chair Vertz responded:

- They would like to do a mural.

- They spoke about the idea of a mural briefly during the Council meeting last night.
- Members of the group have a lot of stuff going on right now.
- The group has not officially acquired a wall yet.
- Once they get a wall, they will be able to move forward.
- Perhaps the City would want to support the project monetarily again.
- They are looking for a muralist teacher to help them, particularly a person of color (black or indigenous).
- They need to find a wall first.
- The group is open to suggestions of locations from the Committee.

**7. PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORT (Update on Future Agendas, Action of Other Boards and City Council)**

- Provided a budget update on the Art In-Lieu Fund.

Committee Member Stucker requested that a copy of this budget item be provided to the Committee for their review as there is a lot of information on it.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would be happy to provide it to the Committee after the Budget Subcommittee has a chance to review it in case there are revisions requested.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he is totally uncertain about the City being able to get a sculpture from Mr. Kahn as he has a lot going on right now.

Chair Vertz commented that she spoke with Mr. Kahn and is aware that he is actively working on a project for the Hotel Sebastopol site.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- He will keep after Mr. Kahn on this.
- Mr. Kahn is priced out at this point.
- Requested a status upon on the library project.

Director Svanstrom provided an update on the library project as well as the support for artists letter, which will be featured as an open letter in an upcoming newsletter.

The Committee spoke on process for their next meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** Committee Member Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Stucker seconded the motion. Chair Vertz adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 12:10 p.m. The next special Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on September 02, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom  
Planning Director