

City Council
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Planning Director
Kari Svanstrom
Associate Planner
Alan Montes
Senior Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Mansour

City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date: August 5, 2020
Agenda Item: 6A
To: Public Arts Committee
From: Alan Montes, Associate Planner
Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
Subject: Possible expansion of Public Arts Committee
Recommendation: Discuss the Subject and Provide a Recommendation to the City Council

Introduction:

At the July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting, the City Council reappointed Marghe Mills-Thysen to the Public Arts Committee (PAC). During the discussion several of the Council Members brought up the idea of expanding the number of PAC members, due to the number of strong candidates.

The City Council requested the PACs input on whether there is interest within the PAC to expand the number of members. One Councilmember also suggested inclusion of the applicants (which could also be open to others) that were not selected on subcommittees as an alternative. These would effectively be volunteers working with the PAC.

Discussion:

The PAC should discuss the potential to expand the number of seats in the PAC and provide a recommendation to the City Council. The current ordinance (see below) allows for five members, although there may have been additional seats in the past.

17.310.040 Public Arts Committee.

A Public Arts Committee will be maintained by the City. Terms of office for each of the Committee members shall be four-year, staggered terms. Said Committee shall be comprised of five members as follows:

- A. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the City Council.*

- B. Prior to making any appointments, the City Council will seek the input and nominations for potential Committee members from City-based registered nonprofit art organizations, entities, facilities, schools, etc.*

C. *Preference will be shown to City residents and persons who own a business or work in the City; however, qualified candidates from the greater Sebastopol and Sonoma County area will be considered. In making appointments, the City Council shall consider the following categories:*

1. *Active members of a City-based, art focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity or facility.*
2. *Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.*
3. *Members of the general public.*
4. *A member of the Design Review Board.*

D. *In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion.*

The Committee shall maintain a registry of public art in the City and perform the duties required of this chapter and any other chapter or resolution of the City Council pertaining to the City's public art program.

In addition to development related public art projects or public art projects funded by the public art fund, the Committee shall review and provide recommendations to the City Council on nondevelopment-generated public art projects.

Recommendation:

The PAC should discuss whether there is a desire to expand the number of seats in the PAC (and, if so, how many) and provide a recommendation to the City Council. The PAC should also discuss which category, or if new categories, would be appropriate for additional PAC members.

The PAC may also wish to discuss inclusion of members of the public on subcommittee work for the various projects the PAC is working on.

If recommended, the Public Art Ordinance would be revised to adjust the number of PAC members.

Attachments:

None.