

Committee Member Arnold provided the following update:

- Read an email that he received from Ned Kahn after reaching out to him recently regarding the status of his project.
- Key comments from Mr. Kahn included:
 - Has been struggling to find a way forward with his project.
 - This project has felt like swimming against the tide from day 1.
 - Costs for all the components of the artwork have risen exponentially since he first got bids back in October 2016.
 - From the beginning of this project he was prepared to use his own funds towards realization of the installation because this is his hometown and he wanted to do something great.
 - Based on the bids he got more than 3 years ago, he was anticipating the project to cost around \$100,000.00 with him funding the approximate balance of \$55,000.
 - The bids he has received over the past few weeks are three times his original estimate.
 - Bids from three companies on the fabrication and installation of the steel support structure ranged from \$197,000 to \$250,000.
 - Costs of the polycarbonate chainmail also increased from \$45,000 to \$70,000.
 - He has already spent \$12,000 for engineering.
 - The combination of rising metal prices due to trade wars, tariffs, and multiple redesigns mandated by Caltrans have worked against this project.
 - Not wanting to disappointment, and cognizant of the time and effort put in by the City and the Public Arts Committee, he reached out to a number of local philanthropists to see if any of them might be interested in helping fund the project, but so far no one has stepped forward.
 - It seems everyone is feeling apprehensive about the future.
 - Has a few more people he can ask, however, he is not feeling optimistic.
 - Apologized for being the bearer of bad news.
- Read a follow up email that he received from Mr. Kahn.
- Key comments from Mr. Kahn included:
 - He is not giving up on trying to find a benefactor for the Portal project on the bridge, but these are proving to be challenging times to hit people up for money.
 - In a parallel development, Mr. Petrone and Ms. Sher of Piazza Hospitality Group asked him to think about a temporary art installation on the Hotel Sebastopol site.
 - Mr. Petrone and Ms. Sher indicated that they had lost their funding to build Hotel Sebastopol.
 - Because of this, they would like to do something wonderful on the lot for the next two years.
- Asked Mr. Kahn if he would consider doing something else with the \$45,000 grant for the Portal project as it seems unlikely to happen.
- Mr. Kahn responded that he would be willing to consider anything.
- Would like the Committee to think about allowing Committee Member Arnold to continue his discussion with Mr. Kahn about what that might be.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Understands that Piazza Hospitality is waiting for their funding to come together for the Hotel Sebastopol project.
- Has met with the City Manager and the developers of the hotel project and they have expressed that they are intending to move forward with the project.
- Has heard interest from the developer about doing murals along the fencing of the hotel site which is on today's meeting agenda.

- The Hotel Sebastopol site can be discussed under this item, or under item 6D.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- He is not looking to talk about temporary art at the Hotel Sebastopol project site as that is something for the developer to work out.
- Reiterated his request to hear from the Committee on allowing him to continue his discussion with Mr. Kahn about what other possibilities there might be for the \$45,000 grant.
- Perhaps Mr. Kahn can put a new proposal together and come back to the Committee and Council with it.

Director Svanstrom concurred with keeping discussion of the commissioned Ned Kahn piece separate from any temporary art installations on the Hotel Sebastopol project site.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Suggested that Mr. Kahn explore installing one (on the west side as you're entering Sebastopol) of the two gateway pieces.

Committee Member Arnold responded that doing one would still exceed available funding.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed disappointment over the possibility of the Portal project not being able to go forward.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- These are such different times.
- We must change our approach and see what we can work with Mr. Kahn on using the \$45,000 grant, and possibly more funding, if possible.
- Would like to get something wonderful from Mr. Kahn.
- Mr. Kahn has already put in \$12,000 of his own funds and would be willing to put in additional funds to get a project through.
- Mr. Kahn has been very involved in the process and has provided several great presentations along the way.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Concurred with Committee Member Arnold in that it would be great to keep going and see if we can get something wonderful.
- Thanked Committee Member Arnold for the communication he has had with Mr. Kahn and for the work that he has done thus far.
- Would support Committee Member Arnold in continuing discussions with Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- The email that Committee Member Arnold shared indicated that Mr. Kahn would be willing to take a second look at the design of the Portal project.
- Perhaps Mr. Kahn would consider a change in materials.
- Mr. Kahn could bring forward a proposal of how the project could be modified to be brought down to a more affordable cost.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- In his experience designing buildings, which are of this scale or bigger, the cost of construction is just ridiculous right now.
- The problem with Mr. Kahn's design is that it has evolved through comment from Caltrans.

- The steel structure is so expensive because of how high in the air it is, which is due to visibility concerns from Caltrans.
- The site determined a lot of the design.
- To think that this project could be redesigned in a way that would satisfy all the requirements placed by Caltrans, given how costs are coming in, is probably impossible.

Committee Member Arnold concurred with Committee Member Langberg.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Doing a new design on the same site would be another 2-year process with Caltrans and the exact same concerns regarding visibility will come up.
- There may not be another design that can work on the site.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with Committee Member Langberg and commented:

- Perhaps the Committee should consider placement at another portal.
- Returning to the metal reflective design would be nice, if feasible.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- The Committee does not have to use the site at the Highway 12 bridge.
- The sculpture could be placed on City-owned property at one of the major entrances to the city.
- Caltrans would not object if the sculpture were placed on Morris Street instead.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if placement at the south gate to the city, on 116, would involve Caltrans.

Committee Member Arnold responded that he did not believe that Caltrans would be involved and noted that there is not much City land available near Spooner Park due to the solar dragon installation.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- It depends on where it is on 116.
- 116 is Caltrans right-of-way.
- Bodega Avenue, west of Main Street, is City right-of-way.

Committee Member Langberg asked about Tomodachi Park.

Director Svanstrom responded that Tomodachi Park is City-owned.

Committee Member Langberg asked if Tomodachi Park could be a potential site for artwork.

Director Svanstrom responded that it could be and noted that environmental review would be required due to the wetlands and proximity to the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that Bodega Avenue, west of Main Street, is a possibility.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- There are islands on Covert Lane, off 116 that could be possibilities and noted that the area gets quite a bit of traffic due to nearby Ragle Park.
- The Committee needs to look at sites again.
- Mr. Kahn should be involved.

- Returning to Mr. Kahn's original design should be fine, so long as it is placed outside of Caltrans right-of-way.
- Mr. Kahn has expressed being open to all possibilities now.

Committee Member Stucker asked for the Caltrans right-of-way distance is from 116.

Director Svanstrom responded that it will vary but is generally at back of sidewalk.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The gateway at the Highway 12 bridge is such an awesome site.
 - It would be worth asking Mr. Kahn if there is something simpler that could be installed there.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- There is some City land on either side of the driveway into Hopmonk Tavern, off 116, is another possible location.
- The Committee needs to look at City-owned land for more possibilities.
- Tomodachi Park could be a good place.
- There are many more possibilities that the Committee could look at if the piece, or pieces were smaller.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Tomodachi Park, Meadowlark Field and the west side of the Laguna where the Americorps Trail comes in are all City-owned land.
- All of those have a conservation easement on it that is held by the Sonoma County Ag & Open Space District.
- The Americorps Trail extension is slated to have a trellis at the entry which may be a good area to consider.
 - Noted that the trellis project has not yet gone out to bid.
 - Happy to get the Committee and Mr. Kahn information on this if interested.

Committee Member Arnold stated that that would be northwest of the Hwy 12 bridge.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that in her recollection the first location that the Committee identified for Mr. Kahn's project was nixed by the Sonoma County Ag & Open Space District.

Director Svanstrom thanked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen for that information.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the Committee has identified 6 or 7 possible sites and suggested that somebody create a map for ease of understanding and email it to the Committee so they may each investigate the sites on their own prior to their next meeting for purposes of further discussion. In addition, Committee comments could be provided to Committee Member Arnold for purposes of his discussion with Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that he arrange for a time to meet with Director Svanstrom at City Hall to review the large Zoning Map in relation to these potential sites, as discussed.

Director Svanstrom responded that that could be arranged.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested that from that, pictures of the sites be provided to the Committee.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- He has some 8 ½ by 11" maps that Associate Planner Montes shared with him which could be used for locating public art and looking at portals, etc.
- Would be happy to outline those sites as discussed and forward to staff who could review to ensure accuracy and then send on to the Committee.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Concurred on next steps as discussed.
- Has noted seven sites, identified during this meeting, for future consideration.

Director Svanstrom asked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen to read back the list of sites that she had noted during this discussion.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- In the area near the Hopmonk Tavern parking lot.
- The south gate, at or near Spooner Park.
- Bodega Avenue, west of Main Street, to avoid being in the Caltrans right-of-way.
- Entry at Covert Lane.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The City's General Plan, as well as a recent analysis that was done by the City's Traffic consultant, has identified the area of Covert Lane, off 116, as an area in need of traffic upgrades.
- What types of upgrades have not yet been determined.
- Would tend to stay away from the area given that.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen continued her list as follows:

- Tomodachi Park.
- Americorps Trail, north of Hwy 12 bridge and west of the currently identified location for Mr. Kahn's sculpture.

Committee Member Langberg asked if there is City-owned property on the northside of town, near O'Reilly.

Director Svanstrom responded that the only publicly owned land in the area is at the trail which is owned by Regional Parks.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- There are two possible locations on Morris Street.
- One would be the sloped lawn area outside of the Corporation Yard.
- The other would be at the start of the trail that goes across the seasonal bridge.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The area west of the Community Center is not as visible.
- Would prefer to do a project at a main gateway.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with Committee Member Langberg.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the other option on her list was a simpler project, in the same location on the Hwy 12 bridge.

Committee Member Arnold asked the Committee if they would support adding more funds to the project for Mr. Kahn.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that she may be open to that, depending on what Mr. Kahn comes up with, if necessary.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the budget would limit Mr. Kahn's thoughts.

Committee Member Langberg commented that he would be open to granting additional funds, depending on the availability of funds, and noted that the Committee probably would not be able to allocate too much more in terms of funding.

Committee Member Stucker commented that he would be open to considering that and noted that some of their funding should be kept for the Sculpture Garden project that has been in the works.

Committee Member Arnold commented that saying that the Committee is open to providing additional funding is too vague and stated that he would like the Committee to decide how much, if any, additional funding they would be willing to put towards this project.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked for the current balance in the Public Art Fund and commented that there are some other expenses that the Committee has discussed which include the mobile art app project, helping out local artists during COVID-19 and potential costs associated with the sculpture garden.

Committee Member Stucker made a motion to allow Committee Member Arnold to continue working with Mr. Kahn on alternatives for his public art project.

Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion.

The Committee voted as follows:

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

Director Svanstrom responded that the current balance of the Public Art Fund is between \$30k-\$35k.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if that balance includes funds from the Hotel Sebastopol project.

Director Svanstrom responded that the City is not anticipating funds from the Hotel Sebastopol project because they are proposing to provide public art on site.

Director Svanstrom offered to provide a more detailed summary of the City's Public Art Fund at their next meeting.

Committee Member Arnold asked for a response from the Committee on the idea of providing an additional \$10k to Mr. Kahn for his public art project.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested that the Committee revisit that after they discuss support for artists during Covid-19 which is agenda item number 6E.

Committee Member Arnold commented that granting an additional \$10k for Mr. Kahn's project feels very appropriate.

Committee Member Stucker suggested:

- Once the Committee has determined a site, and with Committee agreement, Committee Member Arnold could inform Mr. Kahn that the Committee is prepared to offer additional funding and would appreciate input from Mr. Kahn in helping to determine what an appropriate amount may be.

Committee Member Langberg expressed having no further comment at this time.

Director Svanstrom noted that the Committee would have to make a recommendation to Council for final approval when it comes to the granting of additional funds.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that it is important for the Committee/City to provide clear direction to Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Stucker made a motion to allow Committee Member Arnold to communicate to Mr. Kahn the Committee's willingness to extend to him further funds upon hearing more information from him on the different project options and what his needs are.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would like the Committee to be firm on a number.

Director Svanstrom suggested that Mr. Kahn come before the Committee when he is ready to discuss ideas to determine what an appropriate budget might be, with an understanding that the budget could range from the guaranteed \$45k up to \$55k.

Committee Member Langberg commented that Mr. Kahn did a mockup of his original proposal which may be able to be installed at one of the portals to town.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the mockup is on display in front of Sonoma Museum in Santa Rosa. He noted that Mr. Kahn may be willing to sell it to the City.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen recalled that Mr. Kahn had designed another bannerlike iteration of the project as well.

Director Svanstrom suggested that the Committee move on to other items on the agenda due to time constraints.

Members of the Committee concurred.

B. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee (no written report)

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen provided a brief overview of the draft Call that was sent to staff who then forwarded to the Committee.

Committee Member Stucker expressed having a few small revisions to suggest and offered to do that in writing.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative.

Director Svanstrom noted that Chair Vertz has expressed an interest in this as well and suggested that members of the Committee send comments on the draft Call to staff who can collate for the next Public Arts Committee meeting.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Director Svanstrom recalled a prior discussion about the potential for sculpture that work without pads and asked if that was something the Committee wanted to include.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that that was discussed and agreed upon and commented that she was not sure what heading to put it under.

Committee Member Stucker commented that the SCA (Sebastopol Center for the Arts) has been sending out requests for a variety of art and asked if anyone had any insight as to what their expectations are around that.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded that her understanding was that the Committee was to move forward with the sculpture garden project on their own with collaboration being possible down the road.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- She and the Superintendent of Public Works met with facilities staff at the County and they were able to do a walkthrough of the site.
 - They were very open to the project.
 - Wants to ensure that the pads or irrigation don't interfere with the trees.
 - Sounds like a workable situation.
 - The City Arborist will visit the site to look at the trees and make recommendations.
 - An agreement will need to be prepared between the City and County in order to move forward with this.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen thanked Director Svanstrom for that update.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the Committee had discussed having a sculpture at the High Street entrance to the SCA.

Director Svanstrom responded that she did not discuss that with the County but could, if the Committee felt that that would be cohesive. She noted that the SCA has signage in that area which may be a factor as well as visibility concerns for people pulling in and out of the parking lot.

Committee Member Stucker responded that would be a very worthy discussion to have and commented that having a sculpture near the entrance could help to announce where the sculpture garden is.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if staff could send out Committee input on the draft Call prior to the next meeting.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Would very much like to see certain art institutions invited to participate.
- Gave examples including, SRJC, SSU, Art Trails, Art at the Source, Sculpture Jam, etc.
- Would like the institutions that support art in the county, not just west county, to have a chance to participate and be represented.
- May or may not work but would like it to be considered.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded:

- Recalled that having been discussed and that there having been a very positive feeling about it.
- Did not include it in the draft Call because it seemed to her that the Call should be more general and noted, once finalized, the Call could be sent to those organizations specifically.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would like them to be included in the Call specifically as institutions that will be invited to participate.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed being amenable to including that.

Director Svanstrom commented that they may get more participation if that question is answered definitively in the call and noted that this could be changed on an annual basis as the Committee has indicated an interest in having each installation be up for a period of one-year.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative and asked if that could be discussed more specifically at the next meeting.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative and asked Committee Member Arnold to come up with a list of the specific institutions he would like to invite.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen requested that Committee Member Arnold come up with language to include in the draft Call as well.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- It will take months to work out the agreement with the County.
- The Committee has time to think about all the specifics.
- The money for the pads is including in the budget for the next fiscal year.
- The City is looking at September for an adopted budget.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she is happy to see the project moving forward.

Committee Member Langberg thanked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen for her work on the draft Call.

Committee Member Stucker concurred.

C. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee (no written report)

Committee Member Langberg commented that he and Chair Vertz have to get together to confirm the City's inventory of public art and commented that there are no further updates at this time.

D. Discussion of potential use of Hotel Sebastopol fencing

Director Svanstrom provided a brief report.

Committee Member Stucker commented that he would like the West County High School District Art Department to be included in this opportunity.

Director Svanstrom thanked Committee Member Stucker for the great suggestion.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The fence project is an interesting idea.
- Asked if the project is to be considered by the Public Arts Committee.
- Would hate to see it be a random mix of stuff.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Will be having a follow up call with Mr. Petrone that has not yet been scheduled.
- During that call she will ask if this is something they would want to work with the Committee on.
- Technically, murals are exempt from review by the City.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Would be happy to see the Committee work with them on the fence project.
- If they are not going to start construction this Fall, it would be great to think of it as a bigger intention for a larger part of the site as it has been sitting empty for so long.
- Everyone is skeptical about whether the project will be developed.
- Perhaps the developer could consider donating some funds to bring something to the site, instead of just a window dressing along the perimeter.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Referred to the comment that Mr. Kahn sent to Committee Member Arnold via email about possibly working on something to place on the site and commented that that was the first she had heard of that.
- Both the Commission and Council have asked the developer to do something to beautify the site as it sits vacant in the heart of downtown.

Committee Member Langberg commented that it would be good to have the developer clarify their schedule in terms of when they anticipate construction to begin. This could help facilitate a plan to activate the space in the meantime.

Director Svanstrom noted the need for an archeologic study of the site, which could either happen before or during construction.

Committee Member Stucker expressed appreciation to Committee Member Lars for his questions, comments and suggestions and commented:

- A plan to activate the space in the meantime is a fantastic idea.
- Would like to continue this conversation in terms of murals and Committee involvement.

Director Svanstrom noted that activating the site with any kind of temporary use would require Planning Commission review and approval.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred on the Committee being interested in being involved in the fence project and asked for more information on the concept of the murals, in terms of material, attachment, etc.

Director Svanstrom responded that she was not sure of specifics having to do with the murals other than they were to be attached to the fence.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if other art media was being considered and spoke on the importance of site maintenance if it is to be opened up.

Director Svanstrom thanked the Committee for their input.

E. Support for artists during Covid-19

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked for input from the Committee.

Committee Member Stucker referred to a draft letter that he put together and shared with Chair Vertz and Director Svanstrom and asked if it was sent out to local artists?

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she never saw a letter.

Committee Member Arnold commented that this is too big a discussion to have at this time.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Believed she was waiting for comments from Chair Vertz.
- Will follow up with Chair Vertz directly to ensure that it had not gotten dropped.
- Asked if there are certain organizations the City should be sending to as it does not maintain a list of artists in general.
- The letter, as discussed previously, was to be a letter of support rather than a larger component of that.

Committee Member Langberg commented that the SCA may have a good database of artists.

Director Svanstrom responded that the City could send the letter to the SCA and ask them to share it with the artists in their database.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- In terms of providing funding, time is important because there seems to be less consideration and concern about what has happened as things continue to open and return to normal.
- If the City is looking to offer funds to artists, it should do so soon.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Chair Vertz investigated potential grants, etc. but it seemed to be far too entailed at this point which would draw it out too long.
- Sending the letter of support stating that Sebastopol's Public Arts Committee is thinking about artists and the potential hardships they may be facing seemed to be a quick thing that could be done easily during this time.

- Suggested that consideration of granting funds to artists facing hardships during this time be placed on the next Public Arts Committee agenda.
- Reiterated his desire to send the letter of support sooner than later.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would work on getting the letter out and noted that she would get a budget update out to the Committee prior to their next meeting which could help to inform how much money they may want to dedicate to this cause.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that one possibility that was discussed was for \$500 - \$1,000 dollars be granted to a certain number of people through a lottery.

Committee Member Arnold requested that the draft minutes be provided to the Committee earlier than normal, if possible, to help track the various discussions and outcomes from this meeting.

Director Svanstrom responded that City protocol is to release the draft minutes with the packet for the next meeting, however noting that action minutes or a summary could be provided to the Committee in advance of that.

Committee Member Arnold thanked Director Svanstrom.

Committee Member Stucker expressed appreciation to the Committee and staff for doing this. This will be for the betterment of Sebastopol, its citizens and beyond.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed appreciation for the Committee's ability to work through issues, to come together, and to be flexible.

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

There were none.

- 8. ADJOURNMENT:** Committee Member Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion. Vice Chair Mills-Thysen adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:58 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on July 01, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director