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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
 CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 MINUTES OF July 01, 2020

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on June 25, 2020.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Vertz called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL: **Present:** Chair Vertz, Vice Chair Mills-Thysen, and Committee Member Langberg
 Absent: Committee Members Stucker and Arnold (excused)
 Staff: Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
 Alan Montes, Associate Planner

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 10, 2020

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

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:
 Director Svanstrom and Associate Planner Montes indicated that no written comment had been received.

West, a member of the public, commented:

- Has met with a group of youth who live in Sebastopol. Some of them go to Analy High School.
- They have been discussing how they can bring visibility to the Black Lives Matter movement here as that has not yet been seen.
- Is a teacher, used to teach in the Bay Area.

- Has been really inspired but what has been going on in this County around the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Sebastopol is liberal-leaning and it seems like there is a lot of support for the Black Lives Matter movement here and the visibility of that support is the only missing part.
- The group has a location picked out and knows what they want to do, generally.
- Interested in working with the Committee on moving this along.
- Any assistance is welcome.
- Available to answer any questions that the Committee may have.
- Urgency is a part of this.
- Wants to be timely in their effort to show solidarity with this movement.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Director Svanstrom if it would be appropriate to ask West to describe the location and project that they have in mind at this time.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

West responded:

- The location that they have identified is on Weeks Way which is in downtown Sebastopol surrounding the plaza.
- The words will be written to follow the parking lot, which includes a 90-degree turn.
- The two main points that the youth have impressed upon are the urgency and visibility.
- While there may be tweaks after discussion, they are wanting to paint 'Black Lives Matter'.
- They are planning on painting the letters yellow.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen referred to past pavement painting projects in the city, and how the paint has worn in a way that no longer looks good and asked if this project could use a paint product that would wear better.

Chair Vertz commented that there was a street painting project that occurred about 6 or 7 years ago on McKinley Street which she believed Vice Chair Mills-Thysen was referring to.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative and commented:

- That was one of the projects that she was referring to which was subsequently repainted only to have it happen again.
- There have been other street painting projects that have not fared well including one on Robinson Road.

West thanked the Committee for that information and commented that they would look into that.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the yellow paint that is used for crosswalks does not seem to chip.

Director Svanstrom interjected that this matter should be set for discussion on a future agenda before any direction or action occurs. She also commented:

- Appreciates Vice Chair Mills-Thysen's comments on past street painting projects.
- Concurred on those types of issues having occurred.
- It would be great to follow Council direction and support this effort.

- Suggested that the Committee schedule a special meeting to discuss this matter.
- Recommended that a special meeting be scheduled for next week, due to their interest in moving this along.
- This would allow the Committee to discuss and coordinate with the group on this project.

Chair Vertz expressed support for that idea.

Committee Member Langberg asked for a summary of what the Council said about this project.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- She was not present for Council discussion on this.
- It is her understanding that Council directed staff to work with the Public Arts Committee to work with this group on a mural for Black Lives Matter.
- Council has suggested a conference call, so this meeting is a fitting start.
- Thanked West for attending today's meeting.
- The Committee could hold a special meeting as soon as Monday, July 6th.

Chair Vertz commented that she would love to help with this project and asked what would be needed from the Committee, other than giving this project the go ahead, since it has already been approved by Council.

West responded that it seemed that the Council would need to approve the final design once it was approved by the Public Arts Committee.

Director Svanstrom responded that the next Council meetings will take place on July 7 and July 21 and added that she would need to check with City management as to whether this would need to return to Council for approval and if so, how soon that could happen. She further stated that if the special meeting of the Public Arts Committee occurs on Monday, July 6, and all of the details are flushed out, it may be possible for the City Council to grant final approval of it at their meeting on July 7, if needed.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if the group would then be able to start the project as early as Wednesday, July 8.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would expect that the group could begin their work as soon as they receive Council approval.

Chair Vertz asked West if they have prepared a mockup.

West explained their vision for the project and responded that they will begin their work on a mockup now that it seems like there is support for this project to move forward.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- During the special meeting, if scheduled, the Committee can assign a specific liaison or subcommittee that is authorized to work directly with the group on further logistics as it is unlikely that everything will get resolved during the special meeting, like they've done for other projects.

Chair Vertz offered her services as a graphic designer for this project and commented:

- It would be helpful to have 2-3 mockups of their idea(s) by their special meeting, which is likely to occur on Monday, 7/6.
- Details on the product they are planning on using would be helpful.

Director Svanstrom responded that Chair Vertz is welcome to assist West and the group on their efforts surrounding this project as a member of the public.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen thanked Chair Vertz for her comments and for her willingness to help with this project.

Director Svanstrom asked West to include information on funding and anticipated costs for this project.

West concurred and showed a quick visual of a mockup they created.

West thanked the Committee for their time.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen thanked West and the youth group for their work on this project.

The Public Arts Committee confirmed their availability for a Special Public Arts Committee meeting during their regular meeting time of 10:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, July 6, 2020.

West indicated that she would be willing to meet with anyone on the site, if interested, to discuss the project further.

Committee Member Langberg commented that he would like to meet West at the site as his office is right around the corner from the proposed location.

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

6. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Discussion of artwork at Hotel Sebastopol

Director Svanstrom commented that a representative for Hotel Sebastopol was not able to attend this meeting as planned and provided the following update:

- During the last meeting, the potential for a mural or something along those lines along the fence around the Hotel Sebastopol site.
- After further discussion, the group decided that they are going to be working with Ned Kahn to do some larger temporary installations on the site.
- Their intent would be to leave the fencing more open so that the temporary installations are visible.
- The developer is working with Mr. Kahn on concepts for that.
- They would like the Public Arts Committee to review those concepts once further developed.
- Review of the concepts will be agendized once they are ready to discuss with the Public Arts Committee.
- This will not be part of their public art requirement for the project.
- This is something that the developer has decided to do on his own to revitalize and activate the site in the interim before they begin construction.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

B. Update on Ned Kahn art project

Director Svanstrom commented:

- She and Associate Planner Montes met with Committee Member Arnold on Monday to discuss potential sites.
- Committee Member Arnold was going to meet with Mr. Kahn to discuss as well.
- The gateway that Committee Member Arnold will be looking at a bit more are Bodega Avenue (on the west side as that is City right-of-way not Caltrans) as well as the area west of the Hwy 12 bridge where the trail will be connecting to Hwy 12.
- Those two sites were thought to be the easiest to move forward with.
- The Tomodachi site has open space restrictions which could make it difficult.
- 116 is Caltrans right-of-way.
- Reiterated that Committee Member Arnold was going to meet with Mr. Kahn on this.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen requested that staff send the Committee a map depicting the two sites that are being considered.

Director Svanstrom explained the general area while noting that specifics were to be discussed by Committee Member Arnold and Mr. Kahn.

Associate Planner Montes indicated that he could create a sketch or quick screen share showing the approximate locations.

Committee Member Langberg commented that the traffic light on Pleasant Hill where you crest the hill (near the cemetery) feels like more of a gateway than the flats down below and would be an interesting location for this.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen referred to Burbank Heights and commented that it is important that it feel like a gateway, rather than just being in the general area.

Committee Member Langberg concurred with Vice Chair Mills-Thysen and commented that it will be an interesting discussion to have once the Committee hears what Committee Member Arnold and Mr. Kahn come up with.

C. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen provided the following update:

- Understands from Director Svanstrom that Committee Member Arnold was the only member that sent comments on the Call to staff.

Director Svanstrom concurred on having received comments from Committee Member Arnold and commented:

- She received comments from Committee Member Stucker yesterday.
- Committee Member Stucker commented that a lot of Committee Member Arnold's comments were good and requested that staff incorporate them into a draft for discussion at the next Public Arts Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if she could bring up some of the points raised by Committee Member Arnold for discussion among the Committee at this time.

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative.

The Committee discussed Committee Member Arnold's comments on the Call; key comments included:

- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen supports the option to choose a theme. An example of that could be what is current and very important right now in our culture, health, and Black Lives Matter.
- Committee Member Langberg commented that the option for a theme is important. Suggested that it be listed as its own line item as it seems very different than placement of sculpture.
- After concurring with Committee Member Langberg's comments, Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested adding a separate line that reads, 'The Public Arts Committee may choose a theme if so desired.'
- Committee Member Langberg suggested the following language, 'At times the Public Arts Committee may select a theme for the Call for Art.'
- Chair Vert commented that the Committee may find that choosing a theme will lower the number of entries it receives which may lead them to want to move forward without one.
- Chair Vertz expressed support for both having a theme and not and commented that she likes having the option.
- The Committee agreed to the following language, 'The Public Arts Committee may choose a future theme if so desired.'
- In response to Committee Member Arnold's suggestion to eliminate the provision about contributing artists being asked to provide a weather-resistant sign describing the idea, context and idea for their work, Committee Member Langberg suggested that the City and/or Public Arts Committee may want to come up with a uniform design for consistency rather than leaving that up to each individual artist.
- Chair Vertz and Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with eliminating the provision on asking contributing artists to provide signage.
- In response to Committee Member Arnold's suggestion to change from 50% for project establishment and infrastructure and 50% to artists, to 25% for project support and establishment and infrastructure and 75% to artists, Chair Vertz commented that she would like the money split to be in favor of the artist.
- Director Svanstrom commented that the sculpture garden project probably will not have a lot of costs once it is up and running.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that funds generated could be used for publicity of the garden as well as signage, lighting and/or events. She noted that it would be good for the project to have funds while conceding that the split does not have to be 50/50.
- Committee Member Langberg expressed support for a 25%-75% split, Chair Vertz concurred.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if there was support for a 30%-70% split as she would like to support the sculpture garden project as much as possible.
- Chair Vertz commented that the job of the Public Arts Committee is also to support artists as much as possible.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed support for moving forward with a 25%-75% split since that was the consensus of the Committee.
- In response to Committee Member Arnold's suggestion to change, 'Recognition, appreciation and encouragement of the creativity of community members' to, 'Recognition, appreciation and encouragement of the creativity of Sonoma County sculptors' Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed an interest to have the language be more inclusive in that the initial vision was to encourage and display non-professional artists.
- Committee Member Langberg expressed support for leaving the language as-is as did Chair Vertz.

- The Committee concurred with Committee Member Arnold's suggestion to change, 'To provide a specific context and location for residents and visitors to enjoy the efforts of area sculpture artists, and for those artists to have a specific location to display non-commissioned artwork' to, 'To provide a specific context and location for residents and visitors to enjoy the efforts of area sculptors, and for those artists to have a specific location to display non-commissioned artwork.'
- In response to Committee Member Arnold's comment on eroticism being included in the list of don'ts for the artwork, Chair Vertz suggested that the language they used in the prior Call be used here. Committee Member Langberg concurred and Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked Chair Vertz to send that language her way once she can locate it.
- Committee Member Langberg referred to the Project Objectives and Project Requirements sections and commented that some of the requirements listed are broader based and seem more like objectives. Items listed as requirements should be much more specific. Chair Vertz concurred.
- Committee Member Langberg commented that, 'Be appropriate for a public space,' 'Be durable, safe, and low-maintenance,' and the language on, 'No logos,' etc. would be appropriate as 'Requirements'. In addition, sizing, if/when specified by the Committee could be added as a requirement.
- Committee Member Langberg responded that the rest of the items listed under, 'Project Requirements' could be moved under, 'Project Objectives'. Chair Vertz concurred.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with the revisions as expressed by Committee Member Langberg and agreed to by Chair Vertz.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked about adding a requirement that reads, 'Size appropriate to setting.'
- Chair Vertz did a screen share and shared 'Project Objectives' from the last Call that was done for the Library project, and the Committee discussed them.
- Chair Vertz indicated that the prior call used the following language, 'No logos, specific historic figures, mascots, or any expressions of hate are to be used.' And noted that that is why there is are curators, to ensure that nothing inappropriate gets installed.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that, 'No logos, specific historic figures, mascots, or any expressions of hate are to be used' should be listed as a requirement, not an objective. Chair Vertz and Committee Member Langberg concurred.
- Chair Vertz commented that 'objective' is a general word and a lot of artists will understand what it means.
- Committee Member Langberg commented that, 'Be durable, safe, and low-maintenance' could be stricken from 'Project Objectives' as it has its own section. Chair Vertz concurred.
- The Committee agreed to move, 'Be appropriate for a public space' under 'Project Objectives'.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen suggested moving, 'No logos, specific historic figures, mascots, or any expressions of hate are to be used' under 'Selection Criteria'. Committee Member Langberg and Chair Vertz concurred.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she used the general Call as well as the Call that was used for the Library project when creating the draft of this one.
- Committee Member Arnold requested that the width be added under, 'Site'. Committee Member Langberg concurred that both dimensions should be included, or none.
- Director Svanstrom responded that the width could be added. In addition, she commented that the size of the sculpture pads (4x4) could be included if they are not already.

- Director Svanstrom indicated that staff can work on an aerial map that outlines the location of the sculpture garden area.
- Director Svanstrom did a screen share and shared that the width ranges from 20 to 35 feet.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen referred to an area that could serve as an entrance to the sculpture garden which could be a great place for a sculpture and/or signage without obstructing anything that is already there.
- Director Svanstrom responded that she believed that that area would be considered part of the sculpture garden area which is currently being worked out with the County.
- Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked the Committee to consider an entry sign and/or sculpture.
- In response to Committee Member Arnold's suggested revisions to, 'Eligibility,' Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she would like it to remain more open.
- Director Svanstrom suggested that discussion of eligibility criteria, as a critical part of this process, occur with the full Committee at a future meeting. The Committee concurred.
- Committee Members expressed having no further comment on the revisions suggested by Committee Member Arnold at this time.

D. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee

Chair Vertz commented:

- She did a number of entries on Street Art Cities.
- Committee Member Langberg has taken a bunch of pictures of public art as well.
- There were a number of artworks listed in the old inventory which she could not locate, so they were likely removed.
- She added some new artworks that were listed on the inventory as well.
- Can provide a list of the new ones so they can be included in an updated inventory.

Committee Member Langberg echoed Chair Vertz's comments in that he had a similar experience and stated that he would be uploading them within the next few days.

Director Svanstrom commended Chair Vertz and Committee Member Langberg for their work on this.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen concurred with Director Svanstrom and thanked Chair Vertz and Committee Member Langberg for their work on this.

Chair Vertz commented that the website, which is public, is Sebastopol-us.streetartcities.com.

Chair Vertz noted that a couple of the artworks were located on private property, however, they are very publicly located.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked about widespread publication of the site.

Chair Vertz responded that she was not sure about that, based on what she had heard from Mayor Slayter and his experience, and invited discussion among the Committee on the subject.

Chair Vertz indicated that she was leaning towards adding a link to it on the City's website without advertisement.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed support for advertisement of it as the Committee had previously agreed on not including private properties and residential neighborhoods.

Chair Vertz commented that this is not a complete map of art in Sebastopol and commented that this project has completely morphed from its original vision which was to include the best street for sculpture in town, Florence Avenue.

Director Svanstrom commented that this is a great digital and accessible inventor that we can keep continuing to work on for the public. Florence Avenue or not. Suggested that we discuss advertisement at the next meeting (advertisement could include the City's website as well as the newsletters that the City frequently sends out).

Chair Vertz commented that the current inventory that was provided to them includes a lot of the sculpture along Florence Avenue. She reiterated that a couple of the artwork that she included are on private property which could be questionable.

Director Svanstrom responded, in the case of the bee sculpture near Ceres she stated that it is very much a public street, close to a major park, where people will not be disturbed by people walking by and seeing it which is a good rule of thumb when thinking about the appropriateness of including something.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she thinks it is wonderful as it is, even without Florence Avenue and thanked Chair Vertz and Committee Member Langberg for their effort.

The Committee had no further comment on this item.

E. Support for artists during Covid-19

Chair Vertz commented that she and Committee Member Stucker worked together to come up with a letter which was provided to staff.

Director Svanstrom responded that she received the draft letter.

Chair Vertz commented that she provided staff with a long list of open Grant opportunities for artists back on May 13, a lot of which have closed and been distributed, and asked staff if those links made it in to the letter.

Director Svanstrom responded that they did not.

Chair Vertz commented that she could reach out to the Sebastopol Center for the Arts and see if they'd be willing to send it out.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative and commented that it could be put on City letterhead and have Chair Vertz sign it as Chair of the Committee.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked about reaching out to Art Trails and Art at the Source.

Chair Vertz commented that they fall under the Sebastopol Center for the Arts and have for the past couple of years, at least.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the other piece of this, as discussed by Committee Member Stucker, was to include the possibility of providing financial assistance. She gave a lottery as an example, commented that it does not have to be a lot of money, and noted

that it should go to artists whose livelihood is art and are in need. She expressed feeling strongly about doing something beyond just putting some nice words on paper and sending that out.

Chair Vertz expressed being in complete agreement with Vice Chair Mills-Thysen and commented that that is not in the letter. She stated that the original letter was meant to provide support by way of providing a lot of links with potential opportunities for artists which is no longer included in the letter.

Director Svanstrom responded that any of those links that were provided, if still open, can be included in the letter.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that time is of the essence and made a motion for the Public Arts Committee to allocate \$1,000.00 for a lottery to help struggling artists during Covid-19.

Director Svanstrom noted that any funding recommended by the Committee would need to go to Council for approval and commented information on how the lottery would work and information on other matters would be helpful for Council consideration.

Chair Vertz suggested that continuation of this item to flush out those details be agendized for their special meeting on Monday, July 6.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that she could prepare a draft of the lottery in time for packets for the special meeting.

Committee Member Langberg commented that he did not see the need to rush this at this time (because Covid-19 is not going away anytime soon) and expressed a preference to leave the Black Lives Matter project as the only item on the special agenda.

Chair Vertz concurred with Committee Member Langberg and the Committee agreed to push this item to the next regular Public Arts Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen and Chair Vertz agreed to work on the draft lottery together.

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

Director Svanstrom provided updates on recent Council actions as well as City business during Covid-19.

The Committee had no questions of staff.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Mills-Thysen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion. Chair Vertz adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 12:04 p.m. The next special Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on July 06, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director