



City of Sebastopol
Incorporated 1902
Planning Department
7120 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-823-6167
707-823-1135 (Fax)
www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us

UNAPPROVED DRAFT MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
MINUTES OF February 05, 2020

SEBASTOPOL CITY HALL
7120 BODEGA AVENUE
10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on January 30, 2020.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Vertz called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Chair Vertz welcomed new Committee Member, Jeff Stucker.

Committee Member Stucker introduced himself and made a brief statement.

Chair Vertz invited members of the Committee to introduce themselves to Committee Member Stucker.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and made a brief statement.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Committee Member Arnold recommended postponing this item to the next meeting and suggested including election of Chair and Vice Chair on that agenda.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to defer this item to the regular Public Arts Committee meeting of March 04, 2020.

Committee Member Stucker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold, Mills-Thysen and Stucker

Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Committee Member Langberg

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 04, 2019

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

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

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

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

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

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Public Art Updates

Director Svanstrom provided the following updates:

- The contract for "Gray Matter" by Michael McGinnis has been finalized.
 - Mr. McGinnis will begin production.
 - Installation of the piece is planned for this summer.
 - CIP funds have been allocated to prep and paint the wall that the sculpture will be anchored to prior to installation of it.
 - Coordination with the library is also occurring as they have some indoor technology improvements they're looking to make in their meeting room.
- With regards to the artwork by Ned Kahn;
 - The Public Arts Committee reviewed, and the City Council approved the maintenance agreement that was required by Caltrans in October 2019.
 - The City is still waiting to get the maintenance agreement back from Caltrans.
 - Mr. Kahn is looking at getting quotes as costs have increased significantly which is a concern to him.
 - The issue of significantly increased costs may return to the Committee as a discussion item.
 - The price of steel and most metals have gone way up because of the tariffs.
 - This project was approved before the fires which has also led to increased costs.

Committee Member Arnold asked Director Svanstrom if she could get a figure from Mr. Kahn.

Director Svanstrom responded that she has requested that from Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Arnold commented that a percentage (5%) for maintenance is normally set aside and suggested that the Committee consider deferring that and adding those funds to his budget for the artwork itself.

Director Svanstrom commented that she would look at scheduling discussion of this matter at the next meeting of the Public Arts Committee.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Troubled by the fact that this piece was so far over budget to begin with.
- Difficulty considering allocation of additional funds for this project at this point.

The Committee spoke on the evolution of the project to date as well as the process that led to approval and on potential next steps.

The Committee agreed to have discussion of this matter at their next meeting.

B. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee

Director Svanstrom noted that a handout had been provided after packets went out which has since been provided to each member of the Committee.

Committee Member Arnold indicated that he'd spoken with Creative Director for the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Catherine Devriese as the Art Center is currently without an Executive Director. Ms. Devriese stated that they do not have the staff to support collaborating on such a project at this time.

Given that, Committee Member Mills-Thysen and Committee Member Arnold agreed that it would make sense to move forward with the City-owned land for the sculpture garden.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen spoke on her vision for the community sculpture garden concept.

Committee Member Arnold suggested revisions to the proposal that was submitted by Committee Member Mills-Thysen as follows:

- For the third bullet he suggested that the words, 'sculpture artists' be changed to, 'sculptors'.
- For the third bullet he suggested that the words, 'non-commissioned artwork' be changed to, 'sculptures by local residents'.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded that the words, 'non-commissioned' are important because it differentiates between the other thing the Committee does, which is commissioned artwork.

Committee Member Arnold referred to 2. under 'Organization' which reads, 'City to underwrite infrastructure, including sculpture pads, site signage, site delineation and improvements.' and commented the next step is to make sure that the Council will support this concept and the funding for it.

Committee Members expressed having heard support for additional funding from the Council for public art in town.

Director Svanstrom commented that she would be happy to work with the Superintendent of Public Works, Dante Del Prete on what they would need once she has a clear understanding from the Public Arts Committee on what it is they want in terms of quantity, size, etc. She also commented that the Committee could do a site visit as part of a regular meeting to look at and assess the number and size that are being proposed by the subcommittee.

Committee Member Stucker asked questions of the subcommittee.

Director Svanstrom provided an update on a CIP project having to do with ADA accessibility upgrades at Ives Park.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen expressed support for Director Svanstrom's suggestion to have the Committee do a site visit to further clarify things.

Committee Member Arnold stated that he would visit the Corp Yard to see what they have in the maintenance yard.

Committee Member Stucker volunteered to accompany Committee Member Arnold.

Committee Member Arnold requested that updated contact information for Committee Members be provided to the Committee.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Director Svanstrom asked Committee Member Mills-Thysen to refine the draft consistent with today's discussion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative.

Director Svanstrom asked if the Committee wished to proceed with the listed secondary possibility of the hill across from the Community Center on Morris Street.

After some discussion the Committee agreed to remove it and proceed with Area #2 as identified in the Ives Park Renovation Master Plan.

Director Svanstrom asked for an explanation of the 'Resources' section of the draft.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that she was listing ideas for support, connection and network.

Director Svanstrom responded that it could read 'Sebastopol City Departments' because Public Works, Planning and Engineering work together as a team on projects like these. She added that the Planning Commission is the City's Parks Commission and as such, it may be nice to take this planned project to them as a courtesy.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked Director Svanstrom if she would recommend taking this item to the Commission before or after Council.

Director Svanstrom responded that before would be best and suggested that it go on the Commission agenda of February 25th as they will be talking about parks and park improvement projects.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that she could attend the Commission meeting of February 25th and provide information to the Commission on the sculpture garden project.

C. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee

Chair Vertz commented:

- Committee Member Langberg was supposed to check with the City Attorney for his opinion on photographing art that's on private property and placing uploading it to the website and/or app.
- The Committee has identified one art app option that is completely free.
- Associate Planner Montes identified an option using Google Maps.
- The third option would be to develop a website that would be linked to the, 'Experience Sebastopol' website.
 - This proposal was a bit more expensive than the Committee was looking to spend.
- The free app may be the best way to stay outside of the boundary of any trouble that the City could possibly get into.
- The consensus seems to be that if art on private property is visible from the street it can be photographed and used for this purpose; however, the Committee would like the City Attorney's opinion before proceeding.

Director Svanstrom responded that she could talk to the City Attorney about that issue and report back to the Committee.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Seeking permission from the artist and property owner would be labor intensive.
- The idea behind the app is to help people see art that is visible to the public.

Director Svanstrom asked Chair Vertz to send her the links to the various apps/websites that are being discussed/considered for benefit of staff as well as the full Committee.

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative and commented:

- She contacted many developers about the City creating its own app or website and the costs came in pretty high.
- In being budget conscious, the options that she outlined seemed to be the best.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that she would have a concern about publishing artwork that has deteriorated to a certain extent.

Director Svanstrom responded that the Committee can set a policy that the public art be in good condition in order to be featured.

Members of the Committee concurred.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Discussion of potential new art sites

A map was provided by staff to assist in orienting members of the Committee for purposes of this discussion.

Chair Vertz provided a handout to members of the Committee and spoke on an idea from Mayor Slayter. The idea is to have a mural painted on the sheet metal tower that houses a life on the east side of the Sebastopol Area Senior Center building which is a City-owned building. Mayor Slayter stated that the tower has a nice proportion to it, however he's never liked its beige color.

Chair Vertz commented:

- It's a great idea.
- During her interview with the Council she was shown pamphlets of what other cities and towns are doing with public art.
- She expressed to the Council that the work of the Public Arts Committee feels a bit constrained by their being able to work on publicly owned land only.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- That site is the most confusing and difficult he's ever seen.
- There's a lot going on with the dumpsters especially.
- Wants to something more permanent and lasting.
- Wants to place art in a highly visible location.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Spoke on a public art project in New York (oversized seesaws) which she found to be inspiring.
- The sculpture garden is another type of interactive experience that she is hoping to create.

Chair Vertz commented that the City doesn't have a ton of public land available coming in on Highway 116 from the south.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that Spooner Park could be identified as a location to see what artists come up with.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that members look at the four traffic islands where Covert Lane comes off Highway 116. He added that it was his understanding that they are owned by the City.

Director Svanstrom responded that Caltrans has ownership at a certain point and noted that the General Plan indicates that there are some intersection improvements needed in that area.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that it may make sense to wait on that location then until further details on the needed improvements are known as that could change things.

Chair Vertz commented that a location on Highway 116 near Mill Station Road had also been identified as a potential location although it is owned by O'Reilly. The corner near the Sebastopol Charter School is County-owned land but could be a possibility as well.

Committee Member Stucker commented that there should be a long-term plan developed that identifies the four main entrances to town so that everyone is talking about the same space.

Chair Vertz commented:

- The Committee is working with a softer definition when it refers to the four entrances to town.
- The Committee is simply looking for areas near the four main entrances to town that would be suitable for public art.

Director Svanstrom spoke on the flexibility of placement.

Chair Vertz commented that the Committee had identified the following for further discussion at this time:

- The traffic island(s) at Covert Lane and Highway 116.
- The tower behind the Sebastopol Area Senior Center.
- Spooner Park.

Chair Vertz suggested that members bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Director Svanstrom commented that staff can work with the Engineering Department on getting a clearer definition of ownership in the Covert Lane/Highway 116 area.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen suggested that members think about prioritizing the various entry points in town.

B. Discussion of basic signage for artwork in town

The Committee agreed to defer this item to their next meeting.

10. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Update on Future Agendas, Action of Other Boards and City Council)

Director Svanstrom provided the following updates:

- A few various Use Permits have gone to the Planning Commission.
 - One was for the historic Pellini house on the east side of town which has been approved to be a bed and breakfast.
- The City will be moving forward with development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan this Spring.
 - There was an RFP and a consultant has been selected.
 - The Planning Commission will be the advisory body.
 - The City Council will be the approving body.
- The City is looking to update some design guidelines with the Design Review Board.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

11. 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 12:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on March 04, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., at Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director