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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
 CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 MINUTES OF March 04, 2020

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

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on February 27, 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, Langberg and Stucker
 Absent: None
 Staff: Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
 Alan Montes, Associate Planner

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

This item has been postponed to the next meeting to allow for election of both Chair and Vice Chair.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 05, 2020

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

Committee Member Stucker seconded the motion.

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

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

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

7. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee

Committee Member Mills-Thysen prepared a handout which had been provided to the Committee.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Attended the Planning Commission meeting on February 25, 2020.
- The Planning Commission also serves as the Parks Commission.
- Provided an overview of the community sculpture garden concept which seemed to go over well.
- The Commission didn't ask many questions regarding the concept or funding for it.
- The amount for the concrete pads was very small compared to other items.

Director Svanstrom commented that park budget request for the sculpture garden, which the Planning Commission reviewed, was for \$5,500 for the concrete pads.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Received nods of support during his reappointment interview with the Council when mentioning the Public Arts Committee's need for financial assistance for this project.
- Met with the Superintendent of Public Works who assured him that he would see to it that the concrete pads get installed.
- It's nice to receive support from people who recognize the Committee for the good work that they do.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- This project would be a community improvement for all to enjoy.
- The requested budget amount of \$5,500 is for materials which would include 8-10 concrete pads, depending on size, that would be poured in place.
- The poured in place pads would not be moveable once set.
- Movable pads would be difficult and therefore, more expensive.
- Public Works will install as part of their regular work.

Committee Member Arnold responded that movable pads would not be more difficult.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that Committee Member Arnold had the idea of putting a bushing in when pouring the slabs in place which could allow them to be moved if needed.

Committee Member Arnold expounded on the process that Committee Member Mills-Thysen mentioned and commented that there might be a sculpture that wouldn't need a pad and/or wouldn't want a pad.

Committee Member Langberg commented that there may also be a sculpture that needs a serious footing, in other words a movable 6" concrete pad might not support it.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded that that may limit the types of sculpture that can be placed.

Director Svanstrom concurred and commented that any such limits or direction could be addressed in a call for artists.

Committee Member Langberg asked why the concrete pad needed to be movable.

Committee Member Arnold reiterated his comment about the possibility of a sculpture that wouldn't need a pad and/or wouldn't want a pad.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Staff mentioned the possibility of different sizes for the concrete pads.
- Committee Member Arnold felt very strongly that they should all be the same size and that that size should be 4x4.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the Committee can specify that a 4x4 concrete pad is available in the call for artists. He added that having different sized concrete pads could make it harder when putting out a call for artists.

Committee Member Langberg commented that using the same size concrete pads would provide a consistent grid of bases and would look better.

Committee Member Stucker asked if there is a desired thickness for the concrete pads.

Committee Member Arnold responded 1 foot thick.

Director Svanstrom commented that the coyote sculpture that is between the Senior Center and the driveway sits on two 4x4 concrete pads which shows the thickness.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen went over the handout she prepared and commented that it sounds like bushings are possible so the pads can be movable.

Director Svanstrom responded that that would need to be discussed with the Superintendent of Public Works.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that it would be good to ask the Sebastopol Center for the Arts if they would be amenable to placement of one or two pads on the County part of the area if the City wished to do so.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked Director Svanstrom to speak on the expected timeframe for renovation of the creek area and commented that they had discussed placement of one or two pads in the area near the creek.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- That section of the pathway is probably one to two years out.
- The north side of the trail and creek naturalization will be a multiyear project.

a. Site Visit

The Committee conducted their site visit of the proposed community sculpture garden area.

b. Return to City Hall/Discussion

Committee Member Stucker suggested that a picture of the site be used to better see what the area may look like with sculpture and what may need to be addressed as a result (potential blockages, etc.).

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative and commented that she would put something together.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that they need to follow up on the following:

- Asking the Sebastopol Center for the Arts if they would be amenable to placement of one or two pads on the County part of the area.

Committee Member Arnold responded that he would email Creative Director, Catherine Devriese regarding that issue.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Referred to the minutes from the last meeting in which it was mentioned that the City already asked the Sebastopol Center for the Arts if they wanted to collaborate and that they responded that they don't have the time, energy or resources at this time.
- The Sebastopol Center for the Arts may be willing if the City offers to take over the whole site without asking them to do anything.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he recalled that it was the County's ownership of the land that needed to be checked.

Director Svanstrom responded that she'd like to check on the following:

- What type of liability indemnification the County would require and whether the City would be comfortable with that?
- Maintenance of the County-owned section. Is this something the City's Public Works department would take on or would whomever maintains it for the County continue to do so.
- What is the Sebastopol Center for the Arts open to both short-term and long-term?

Committee Member Arnold suggested that Director Svanstrom check with the County on what they'll allow the City to do before he talks to the Sebastopol Center for the Arts about their plans.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he doesn't believe that there's irrigation to the area.

Committee Member Langberg commented that programming the whole space would make the most sense.

Chair Vertz concurred with Committee Member Langberg.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Supports checking with the County to find out what is viable first.
- Even though they don't own the land, it is very important to coordinate with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts on this because it's their territory.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Doesn't think the Sebastopol Center for the Arts has the capacity to do any work on this project.
- If the City offers to do all the work, as Committee Member Langberg suggested, the Sebastopol Center for the Arts will give the City a thumbs up because they are very pro public art.
- Can't see the Sebastopol Center for the Arts saying no if the City doesn't give them any work.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would reach out to the Sebastopol Center for the Arts again once Director Svanstrom has talked to the County and suggested that the Committee discuss the following at the next meeting:

- Possible designation of certain pads for specific local groups (Sculpture Jam, SRJC, SSU, SCA, etc.).

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Director Svanstrom is going to check with the County.
- Depending on the outcome of that, Committee Member Arnold will discuss with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts about the concept of placing art either short-term, taking up more of the area, and long-term.

Committee Member Arnold responded:

- The Committee may want to expand into the County-owned area.
- The Committee talked about a two-year term for this project.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded:

- The two-year term was discussed in the context of having a show.
- Understood that the concept for the community sculpture garden was for it to be permanent and ongoing.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that the Committee discuss that further at a future meeting.

Director Svanstrom and the rest of the Committee agreed that the concept for the community sculpture garden was for it to be permanent while the art within it would change.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would ask the Sebastopol Center for the Arts if the City could use the land without getting into further detail.

Members of the Committee expressed excitement and appreciation for the work that was being done on working towards bringing this concept to fruition.

B. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee

Chair Vertz asked Director Svanstrom if she's met with the City Attorney on the issue they discussed previously.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- She spoke with the City Attorney regarding copyright concerns.
- The basic rule is that photographing something that can be seen from a public sidewalk is not a problem.
- There are a couple of considerations where it can depend. Those are:
 - If the work has already been published in a book, the photo in the book cannot be used.
 - A wide shot of several pieces of art in proximity of each other (Patrick Amiot's art on Florence Avenue for example) would not be a problem.
 - If individual pictures of those artworks were desired it would be best to get permission from the artist as a courtesy because he has published several of his pieces in copyrighted works.
- Chair Vertz expressed being willing to speak with Mr. Amiot about permission.

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold commented that it could be limited to artwork that has been commissioned by the City.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- She understood the idea to be art that is publicly accessible not just artwork that has been commissioned by the City.
- The app will serve as a better guide if it includes all the art they can walk around town and see.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Chair Vertz commented:

- The Committee got the okay to take photos of the artwork.
- There are two apps/websites that the Committee has been discussing.
 - One is using Google Maps which is not an app.
 - The issue she saw with it is that the web address is not advertisable.
 - Likes that it provides a marker for a person's current location.
 - The other is Street Art Cities which has an app and a website.
 - Sebastopol's web URL would be: <https://sebastopol-us.streetartcities.com/> which is advertisable.
 - Spoke on the interface of the website and app.
 - The one thing she did not like is that it does not provide a marker for a person's current location.

Associate Planner Montes commented that it was his understanding that the Google Map URL can be imbedded into a page so access to it could be gained from the City's website which is something he could look into if the Committee was interested.

Chair Vertz commented:

- There are other added benefits to using Street Art Cities.
 - Street Art Cities is a worldwide app.
- Both Street Art Cities and Google Maps are free.
- Street Art Cities sent her an email after setting her up with a page which said that they look for partnerships to build and improve their platform.
 - They are the only public art app that she's been able to find that works.
 - Perhaps the City could donate to Street Art Cities.
 - May be worth considering a donation, especially if it's something the City decides to use.
- Wants to be able to use funds to support the sculpture garden.
- Unsure of the balance in the City's Public Art Fund.
- Supports artists getting paid for their work.
- The Street Art Cities website and app is something that supports art.
- Wants to discuss a possible donation to Street Art Cities.
- Willing to go around taking pictures of publicly accessible artwork and uploading them to the site.
- Development of the inventory featured on the website and/or app regardless of which platform is used will be a group effort.
- Once 100 pieces of art have been uploaded the City can start advertising the site/app.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- It sounds like the next step would be taking the pictures.
- The pictures need to be archived.
- The City has a public art inventory that should be updated.
- Unsure about the copyright of the images that are used in the current public art inventory, but it can serve as a guide of artwork.

Committee Member Arnold responded that the inventory was done almost a decade ago by a student at SSU.

Director Svanstrom responded if the inventory was done for the City by an intern there shouldn't be copyright issues.

Committee Member Langberg asked about advertising of the site and/or app.

Chair Vertz responded that the site and/or app could be advertised on the City's website (www.cityofsebastopol.org) and on www.experiencesebastopol.com. In addition, it could be advertised on signage around town and as part of Sonoma County Art Trails.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen stated that it could be advertised in the local newspaper as well.

Director Svanstrom commented that Creative Sonoma, the Economic Development Board and the Chamber of Commerce could also be used for advertisement. In addition, the City has a newsletter that it could be advertised in.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked Chair Vertz what funding source she was thinking of in terms of a donation to Street Art Cities.

Chair Vertz commented that it could either come from the Arts Committee's budget or the Committee could request funding from a different source from the City Council.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the money in the Public Arts Fund is supposed to be used for public art and suggested that the Council be asked for donation funds if that is the consensus of the Committee.

Director Svanstrom commented that this should come from the Public Arts Fund as it could fall along the lines of signage in terms of advertisement.

Committee Member Arnold commented that outside agencies have money they may be willing to contribute. In addition, he commented that there may be some grants worth applying for.

Director Svanstrom responded that it could be difficult to apply for a grant for a suggested donation.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen made a motion for the Committee to move forward with use of the Street Art Cities website and app.

Committee Member Arnold seconded the motion.

Chair Vertz asked for further discussion.

Committee Member Stucker commented that Street Art Cities seems simply and user friendly.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Hearing nothing further the Committee voted on the motion as follows:

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

Committee Member Mills-Thysen thanked Chair Vertz for her work on this thus far, particularly with Street Art Cities.

Members of the Committee concurred.

The Committee discussed their process for taking photographs of the artwork around town.

Committee Member Stucker asked if this was limited to artwork within city limits.

Chair Vertz and Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked about inclusion of artistic displays that are publically visible but may not be traditional works of art.

Chair Vertz suggested that members of the Committee focus on artwork that they sure of and return with the type of question that Committee Member Mills-Thysen raised at their next meeting for discussion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen referred to the WPA mural inside the Post Office and asked if it was on a historic list.

Director Svanstrom responded that she did not know but could look into.

Chair Vertz commented that members could email any photos of publically visible art to her so she could work on uploading to Street Art Cities.

Committee Member Stucker commented that another consideration would be campuses such as Brookhaven School which has two murals and is open to the public.

Members of the Committee concurred.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Discussion of basic signage for artwork in town

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would like simple signage with the artists name, the title of the artwork, and the date of creation for public art such as "The Door" that was created by Ron Rodgers and others in the late 1990's.

Committee Member Stucker responded:

- Would like to increase discussion of this to go broader into the future to provide for consistency across town as new artworks are installed.
- Suggested that the Committee look at adopting parameters for signage such as materials, colors and fonts, etc.
- Any way to work towards building more uniformity and consistency in terms of signage would improve the City's brand.

Director Svanstrom responded that the Committee may also want to consider adding language to indicate when an artwork was commissioned by the City. The same could apply for art that is required by the City's public art requirement for private projects.

Chair Vertz commented that all the desired information that has been expressed for signage can be included in digital form via the Street Art Cities app which can be updated at any point in time. She added that she likes the idea of providing basic signage although the cost for artwork signage could be significant.

Director Svanstrom commented that the overall inventory that the Committee comes up for the app could help them to understand the potential scope of the artwork signage project.

- Committee Member Stucker commented:
Suggested that a local capable sign contractor be approached regarding the potential of this project.
- Interested in reviewing the City's sign ordinance.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Vertz concluded discussion of this item.

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

Director Svanstrom updated the Committee on the following:

- At the last Planning Commission meeting the Commission talked about parks funding projects for the next year.
- Spoke on planned ADA improvements at Ives Park.
- The Commission did not object to the request for \$5,500 for the sculpture pads for the community sculpture garden.
- The Council recently approved Hotel Sebastopol's request for a Time Extension of their Design Review approval.

Committee Member Stucker asked for an update on the public art project by Ned Kahn.

Director Svanstrom responded that she did not have any new updates at this time.

Director Svanstrom added:

- The Michael McGinnis contract has been fully executed.
 - Installation is planned to occur sometime this summer.
- The regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting in April is proposed to be cancelled.
- The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held in May.

Committee Member Arnold asked about agendaing discussion of potential sites for the next public art project.

Director Svanstrom responded that the May agenda will include discussion of potential sites for the next public art project and election of officers.

10. 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 12:03 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on April 01, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., at Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director