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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
MINUTES OF July 06, 2020

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on July 01, 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 Members Langberg, and Stucker
Absent:	Committee Member Arnold (excused)
Staff:	Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director Alan Montes, Associate Planner

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:
Director Svanstrom indicated that no comments had been received on items not on the agenda.

Teri Tachovsky, a resident of Sebastopol, commented:

- Introduced herself.
- New to the Board of Director for the Community Center.
- Working on the Patrick Amiot calendar.
- Introduced in the work of the Public Arts Committee.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Vertz closed the public comment period.

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

5. REGULAR AGENDA:

- A. Black Lives Matter mural/graphics project – Discussion and direction regarding a potential graphic installation at Weeks Way or another City location in support of this movement.

Adanna Okiwelu and Dezi Kai read a prepared statement.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Proud of their initiative and leadership.
- The event that was done by this group last night was extremely moving and inspirational.
- Does not believe that it is the Public Arts Committee's role to tell this group what to do here.
- Believes it is the Public Arts Committee's role is to listen and support this group and do whatever they can to help.
- Wants to ensure that this gets done.
- Thanked this group for their work.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Echoed comments made by Chair Vertz.
- Thrilled to see students getting really active in this, particularly former students, which is really uplifting and encouraging.
- Thanked this group for their time, energy, spirit and emotion around this whole movement.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Echoed comments made by Chair Vertz and Committee Member Stucker.
- Thanked this group for stepping up and stepping in.
- This group and this movement have a lot of support.

Ms. Okiwelu thanked the Committee for their words.

Chair Vertz commented:

- During the last meeting, the Committee asked about the type of paint that would be used due to durability and longevity concerns.
- She called the Public Works Department this morning and was told she should speak with the Superintendent, Dante Del Prete, however, she did not receive a call back.
- The City Council may be able to help this group acquire some of the street paint that the City uses.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- She has a call into Mr. Del Prete as well to better understand the type of paint that they use for sidewalks, parking lots, etc. as it is made to stand up to high traffic and to find out what the cost of that may be.
- The City Council asked the Public Arts Committee to move forward with assisting this group.
- The City Council felt that is an appropriate project to fund through the Art In-Lieu Fund.
- An agenda item has been placed on tomorrow evenings City Council agenda in case there are any decisions or authorizations needed for this group proceed with their work.
- Expects to get information from Mr. Del Prete prior to tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Chair Vertz asked staff if she understood correctly that the funding for this will come out of the Public Arts Committee budget, not City Council.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative and commented that the City Council felt that use of funds from the City's Art Fund would be appropriate for this project.

Chair Vertz asked how the Public Arts Committee should go about approving a budget for a project when costs are not known.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- She will research what the costs are.
- The staff report outlines three or four different areas for the Committee to discuss with this group today.
- Location, Concept, Funding and assigning a liaison or two from the Public Arts Committee that would like to continue working with this group are those areas.
- The Committee can discuss what the funding needs are, and the Council can approve the budget at their meeting tomorrow evening.
- Sent out a mockup that Chair Vertz provided to her prior to this meeting which she also did a screen share of.

Ms. Okiwelu commented:

- Yesterday at the vigil the group polled the community and concluded that the location as shown on the mockup (on the cement which crosses through the plaza) was the majority opinion, rather than the parking lot.

Ms. Kai commented:

- They felt it might be better in the square because the square represents community.
- Believes this will be a really good location for it.

Chair Vertz expressed support for the proposed location.

Committee Member Stucker asked for more information on the group that is behind this project since he was unable to attend the last meeting.

West introduced herself and provided an overview of the Black Lives Visibility Group that is working on this project.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if the group has reached out to other high schools in the area.

West responded that there are members from other high schools in the area as well. She also mentioned that the group is hoping to do a larger mural project after this project is complete.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if the group had a location in mind for a mural.

West responded that they are hoping to place the mural on a visible wall in the downtown and mentioned a large blank wall on the side of Thrive Yoga that seems like a great place.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if other high schools had been approached about getting involved.

West responded that there has not been an official approach, only reaching out through the network that exists and is already active.

Ms. Kai commented that she reached out to the organizer that helped her last night. That organizer goes to Orchard View School and is interested in getting involved with this project. She noted that she has not reached out to an entire school or art department regarding this movement because most schools are closed right now. In addition, she knows an art teacher from Orchard View School whom she could reach out to about this.

Katie commented that she knows an art teacher from her Middle School who would love to help with this.

Sara Willis commented:

- Is working with West and this group on the logistics for this project.
- The mural specifically will take more planning in which case they would expect to be able to send out an invitation for more involvement.
- They have a connection to the owner of the Thrive Yoga building that they are looking at for the mural.
- The Barlow is another potential location for a mural.
- The location for the mural has not been decided.
- They would love for the mural to be very visible in the downtown.
- The Black Lives Matter project in the plaza is more urgent.
- The plaza is a lovely place to place this project as it is a place for community and would be very visible.
- Thanked the Committee for their time.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that the following need to be addressed:

- Design
- Funding
- Logistics
- Materials
- Liaison
- Location

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- It sounds like the location has been set.
- Ms. Okiwelu said that the goal is something permanent and beautiful.
- Wants to emphasize those goals as something very important which she is in support of.
- Hopes the group can find and use the most permanent paint.
- Supports Chair Vertz's efforts on researching the best paint to use for this.
- Permanence is a show of respect.
- In terms of beauty, she is interested in finding out what colors are available in the permanent paint that is used.
- The choice of white paint as shown in the mockup is interesting.
- There is a possibility that the permanent paint will be available in green and yellow.

Chair Vertz commented:

- There are other options.
- If she could have spoken to Public Works, she could have arranged to get the primary colors in which case any color could be made.
- The same permanent paints would have to be mixed.
- Tints or other household paints cannot be mixed into the white permanent paint to create the desired color.

Ms. Willis asked Ms. Kai to speak on why the color white was chosen as opposed to using color(s).

Ms. Kai commented:

- They chose white so it could serve as an outline and solid base to inspire creativity within the community as they would like to see people paint inside and outside the letters.

- They thought white would be a better base than yellow.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented on the symbolism of their using white as the base.

Chair Vertz commented:

- She spoke with some of the organizers of the Seattle Black Lives Matter street painting and their base was also plain white with people being able to paint on top of that.
- Those organizers sent a blueprint of the letters that they used to this group for their use.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- This is a very aerial graphic.
- Suggested that there be parameters for allowing people to paint the graphic whether inside or outside the letters to ensure its continued visibility.
- Appreciates the encouragement that Vice Chair Mills-Thysen expressed regarding outreach to other schools or art programs that may want to get involved in some way.
- Wants an inclusive process.
- Supports the use of a wall for the mural and emphasized the importance of visibility (for both passerby in cars and on foot).
- Curious to see what the design for the mural will look like.

Chair Vertz commented:

- While this is an aerial graphic, she believes it will be very visible and easily read when standing in the plaza.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- In reference to this being paid for using the Art In-Lieu Fund, she commented that there are some members of the Public Arts Committee who are reluctant to spend much money on items beyond just sculptures and commissioned work.
- Wants to ensure that there are not limitations in funding that would prevent them from being able to get the right kind of paint.
- Interested in additional sources of funding, if possible.
- Suggested that the City may want to contribute funding for this project, separate from the Art In-Lieu Fund.
- There may be other possible sources of funding as well.

Chair Vertz commented:

- The Committee could recommend approval of an amount not to exceed a figure they agree upon for the sidewalk project and forward to Council for final approval.
- The City Public Works Department could secure a bigger discount for the paint than typical retail costs.
- West provided a rough budget of \$500.
- Because they have not yet identified a wall for the mural that item can be pushed to their next meeting which will be held in August.

Director Svanstrom commented that she heard back from Public Works and the cost for the paint they use for curbs and in parking lots comes in yellow, red and white and ranges in price from \$16 to \$23 per gallon. She noted that the paint that they use is water based which makes it less toxic, safer, and easier to clean up.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if this is the same paint that is used on the streets (crosswalks, etc.).

Director Svanstrom responded that it is not.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Reiterated her preference to use the strongest and most permanent type of paint they can.
- Expressed support for the Committee to agree to a certain amount of funding and the amount does not seem like it will be an issue.
- Asked if there is a special application for the paint that they are planning to use.

Chair Vertz responded that there is no special application required as she understands it.

Chair Vertz asked the Committee if they wished to comment on the concept for this project.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Believes this project is very representative of most people and citizens in Sebastopol and the greater West County area.
- Has no qualms about this project whatsoever.
- This project is really thrilling.
- Supports Chair Vertz's suggestion to separate the street art painting and the mural as they are two separate projects.
- It makes sense to give this group the green light on the street art painting in the plaza first so they can get to work on it.
- The font is very clear, easy to read, and makes sense.
- Red, yellow, and white are limiting, however, colors could be mixed to create more options.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- It seems that this group is taking care of the design, organization, and participation, which is great.
- Hopes that there is organization about how they are going to have participation and involvement.
- It should be clear how they are planning on making that work.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- For the street art painting at the plaza, she suggested that the group bring forward their plans for scheduling and anticipated timelines either during this meeting, if that is known, or at the Council meeting tomorrow.
- The City can use signage at the plaza when work is to occur and can also post an article on the City's website.

Ms. Kai commented:

- She will be in charge of event planning.
- Once a date is set, she will post information on social media.
- May do a press release about it as well.
- Invited people to share information on the project as it comes available.
- Wants the event to be as safe as possible.
- May break up the project into smaller sections with people reserving their space in advance, to control crowd size and ensure safety.
- Wants to have a clear plan on how they would like it to look so they can provide that direction to those wishing to participate.

- Expects this to take a few coats of paint.
- Has heard from a lot of artists wishing to participate as well.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked how the letters will get blocked so it is a clean line.

Chair Vertz responded that her suggestion, as this being her specialty, would be to take the blueprint and scale it for the site, then to clearly outline the letters with chalk and use a roller on the inside.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen nominated Chair Vertz to serve as the liaison if willing.

Committee Member Stucker concurred with Vice Chair Mills-Thysen's nomination.

Chair Vertz thanked Vice Chair Mills-Thysen for the nomination and responded that she would be honored to serve in that capacity.

Committee Member Stucker asked if the surface would be prepared somehow prior to painting.

Chair Vertz responded in the affirmative and commented that she owns a power washed which they could use to clean off the area.

Director Svanstrom noted that the Public Works Department may be able to help with that as well.

Director Svanstrom spoke on process.

Committee Member Stucker asked the youth what their thinking was in terms of timeline for the street art letters.

West responded that that is still being worked out however noting that they are wanting to do it as soon as possible.

Ms. Kai stated that their hope is to complete it towards the end of this month.

Ms. Willis responded that they were eyeing the week of the 20th.

Chair Vertz asked if members of the public wished to comment on this item.

There were none.

Director Svanstrom commented that staff received a letter via email from a member of the public which had been provided to the Committee. The letter was submitted by Zen Destiny who expressed not being in support of this project. She noted that the letter would be posted to the City's website and commented that no further public comment had been received.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen asked if that comment, and other that come through, will be provided to the City Council for their consideration as well.

Director Svanstrom responded in the affirmative.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented that, while the sense may be that this project is totally representative of the community, there are always going to be people that disagree.

Committee Member Stucker concurred.

Ms. Tachovsky commented:

- Loves this project.
- The location is good.
- Suggested the retaining wall near Whole Foods (across from the Peace Wall) as a good location for either the street art painting or the mural.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Vertz thanked Ms. Tachovsky for her comments and closed the public comment period.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen made a motion in support of this project, with funding allocation not to exceed \$500.

Chair Vertz commented that \$500 seems a bit low and suggested an amount not to increase \$1,000 or \$1,500 depending on how the rest of the Committee feels.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen amended her motion in support of this project, with a recommended budget not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Committee Member Stucker seconded the amended motion.

The Committee voted on the motion as follows:

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

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The Committee has expressed unanimous support for this project with a recommended budget not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the plaza painting component of the project.
- Would appreciate if a member of the Public Arts Committee is available to attend tomorrow's City Council meeting in case the Council has questions on this.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen made a motion in support of having Chair Vertz serve as the liaison for this project.

Committee Member Stucker seconded the motion.

Chair Vertz accepted.

The Committee voted on the motion as follows:

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

Absent: Committee Member Arnold

Chair Vertz offered to attend tomorrow's City Council meeting to answer any questions the Council may have.

Members of the Committee and Director Svanstrom thanked Chair Vertz for her willingness to attend tomorrow's Council meeting.

Committee Member Stucker asked if this group was giving themselves a name as that might be helpful when communicating this to the community and other bodies. He also asked clarifying questions on process and timeline.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Happy and energized by this group's proposal and concept.
- Likes that this is not just a one and done movement here locally in Sebastopol.
- Hopes this group will continue to carry on with this throughout their high school careers and beyond.
- Thanked the group for their work.

Vice Chair Mills-Thysen commented:

- Echoed Committee Member Stucker's comments.
- Thanked this group for their activity and action.

West responded that this group has been going by Black Lives Matter Visibility Group or Team.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Echoed comments of fellow Committee members.
- Really proud of this group's leadership and initiative.
- Everyone involved has done a great job.
- Proud to be part of this effort.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Committee Member Stucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Mills-Thysen seconded the motion. Chair Vertz adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:30 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on August 05, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director