

Chair Vertz asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

Committee Member Arnold nominated Committee Member Landberg.

Committee Member Langberg commented that he is currently as Vice Chair for the Tree/Design Review Board and respectfully declined this nomination.

Committee Member Langberg nominated Committee Member Mills-Thysen.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen thanked Committee Member Langberg and accepted the nomination.

Committee Member Stucker and Vice Chair Vertz concurred with Committee Member Langberg's nomination.

Without discussion, the Committee voted as follows:

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 04, 2020

Committee Member Stucker 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, Langberg and Stucker
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Director Svanstrom and Associate Planner Montes indicated that no comments had been received and that no members of the public were in attendance.

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

7. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Update on City Public Art projects (no written report)

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The contract for the artwork by Michael McGinnis is underway and Mr. McGinnis is looking forward to proceeding with the project.
 - While subject to change, the art piece is expected to be ready late summer/early fall.
- Has been trying to connect with Mr. Kahn regarding the status of his project.

- Caltrans has changed the second agreement, which is the maintenance agreement, again.
- Needs to look at the revisions to see whether it needs to go before Council.

Committee Member Arnold offered to stop by Mr. Kahn's shop to see if he is there and to potentially get an update on things.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would appreciate that so long as he can safely do so, as she has not been able to get in touch with him recently.

Committee Member Arnold responded that he would do so before the next Committee meeting.

Committee Member Stucker offered to reach out to Caltrans as a citizen and member of the Public Arts Committee regarding Mr. Kahn's public art project in hopes of adding to the voices in support of moving their timeline along more efficiently.

Director Svanstrom responded that Committee Member Stucker was welcome to do so and noted that she would send their contact information to him.

Chair Vertz asked staff if public comments on this item had been received.

Director Svanstrom responded that staff had not received written comment from the public on any of today's agenda items and no members of the public were participating in the meeting.

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

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Contacted the County of Sonoma who is responsible for the property.
 - The County had questions related to maintenance and wants to meet with staff onsite to discuss further. That meeting is currently set for June 2nd.
 - Based on her discussions with the County it seems likely that the City can place two sculpture pads on the County-owned piece for this project.
- With regards to budget, at last night's Council meeting, the Council adjusted their budget cycle due to the pandemic.
 - While budget discussions would normally be occurring during this time, discussions have been deferred and are now expected to begin in late summer.
 - Does not expect the relatively small amount of funding that has been allocated for this project to come out of next year's budget.

Committee Member Arnold commented that their work has been stalled due to the County health order.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen concurred with Committee Member Arnold and asked Director Svanstrom what the next step for the Committee would be to continue to move things forward.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- The physical elements (planning, spacing, quantity) of this project are well on their way.
- Working out the details of a first Call for Artists and how that might be formatted could be the next step in the process.

- Asked if the Committee would want the pads in place before the call for artists is released.
- Would want to wait to release the call until after the budget has been formally approved and we know the project can go forward.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that it would be wonderful to have the pads in place before release of the call for artists.

Chair Vertz asked Committee Member Mills-Thysen if she had further questions or comments on this item.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked Director Svanstrom when she expects the budget process to occur.

Director Svanstrom responded that she anticipates budget adoption in September.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen expressed having no further questions or comments at this time.

Committee Member Arnold had no further comment.

Committee Member Langberg suggested placing discussion of a call for artists on the next Committee agenda.

Committee Member Arnold responded that the call for artists will take a lot of discussion and he would not want to do it through this virtual format.

Committee Member Stucker asked clarifying questions and suggested that a conceptual announcement be put out before the pads are put into place to give artists extra time to come up with their proposal.

Chair Vertz responded that it may be that artists are not creating a piece from scratch for this call and asked Committee Member Mills-Thysen to respond to Committee Member Stucker's suggestion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The City has a format and procedure that they have used for past calls which they could adapt for this program.

Committee Member Arnold commented that that is part of a larger discussion, which he would like to have in person.

- It may be that the Committee invited some institutions to be represented which could have their own internal call and process.
- This will not be a commissioned piece like the others.
- The Committee needs to get together to discuss the dynamics of it.
- In the future the Committee may want to buy artwork from an artist rather than going through this long process of putting out a call, etc.
- There are a lot of options.
- Given the pandemic, there are probably a lot of artists who are hungry for work and would like to participate in something like this.

Committee Member Stucker expressed appreciation for Committee Member Mills-Thysen's comments and commented that he would like to see the format and procedure that has been used, and can potentially be adapted, for this program.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Agrees with Committee Member Arnold in that artists are hungry for work and would be interested in an opportunity, even if just to show their art.
- The identified location would be a lovely place to display art.
- Would love to see this project come to fruition.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Committee Member Arnold's suggestion of meeting onsite, with social distancing, is perfectly reasonable and is something he would be willing to do.
- Supports the idea of reviewing the past format and procedure and coming to the next meeting with thoughts on how to adapt that as suggested by Committee Member Mills-Thysen.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- She will check the Executive Order to see if a site visit could be allowed for the Public Arts Committee.
- She would also want to check with the City Attorney.
- In the meantime, staff can send the past call to members of the Committee for their review.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Asked staff to send the most recent call that was used to the Committee for their consideration.
- If possible, she would like Committee members to share their adaptations of the call prior to meeting onsite (assuming that can be arranged).
- If it could be possible for the Committee to meet onsite for their next meeting, she would be in support of that.

Director Svanstrom responded that Committee members could share their adaptations via email by directly sending to staff. Staff could then forward to the Committee and could also include those communications in the next meeting packet.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Staff will send out the most recent format that was used for Committee consideration.
- Suggested that members of the Committee send their adaptations to staff, preferably with some time to review before the next meeting.
- If the pads cannot be installed until after the budget is adopted in September, perhaps the Committee should consider when they would want the first art pieces to be installed in terms of what season and what the weather might be like.

Chair Vertz clarified that Committee Member Mills-Thysen is referring to the format for the last call for artists that was used.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative.

Director Svanstrom commented that members of the subcommittee may want to take the lead on adapting the most recent call for this project and then sending out to staff who can send it to the rest of the Committee for their consideration.

Members of the Committee expressed support for that approach.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would do his own adaptation of the form and send to staff as he expects the process to be much simpler, such as an invitation to apply, than the previous call which was for a commissioned art piece.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if Committee Member Arnold would be interested in working that with her, as the two members of the subcommittee, via email.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he would prefer that they all work on it individually and then discuss when they can hold an in-person meeting.

Director Svanstrom responded that staff would send the call to the Committee with the understanding that the subcommittee would be taking the lead on adapting it for this project and that staff would send out those revisions once received as well.

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

Chair Vertz commented:

- Not much has been done on this since the last meeting.
- Her understanding from the last meeting, which was not reflected in the minutes so she may have misunderstood, was that she and Committee Member Mills-Thysen were going to get together to discuss this with Mayor Slayter.
- Committee Member Mills-Thysen ran into Mayor Slayter and his underlying concern was with this creating issue with neighborhoods and neighbors who don't want the people being directed to their house through this app (he used Florence Avenue as an example).
- Florence Avenue already receives a lot of traffic as is.
- Asked Committee Member Mills-Thysen to briefly update the Committee on what Mayor Slayter told her about the app he already created which was so overwhelmingly successful that he had to shut it down.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that Chair Vertz summarized the information she received from Mayor Slater pretty well.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Does not want to see the City or more specifically, the Public Arts Committee, that is going to bring a negative connotation from the local homeowners and neighborhoods.
- Can see this as potentially causing an issue like that, unlike the sculpture garden which she could not imagine anyone being upset about.
- This is a great idea, but it may be best to table it at this time.
- Invited Committee Member Langberg to give any updates he may have as the other member of the subcommittee.

Committee Member Langberg expressed having no updates at this time.

Chair Vertz asked Committee Member Langberg if he had any comments.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- There is a lot of public artwork, that is more public than the artwork along Florence Avenue, that could be featured on the app.

- The app that the Committee looked at is a good one, the Committee could limit which artwork it chooses to feature, and it seems like it would be easy enough to do.
- There is still value in that effort.
- The Committee can be judicious in how it chooses to move forward.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that it would make sense to think about art in any neighborhood, not just Florence Avenue and commented that she would be interested in coming up with a list of said neighborhoods so the Committee does not have to worry about infringement at all.

Committee Member Langberg commented that Mr. Amiot's artwork is featured by the City in other ways already.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that Mayor Slayter stated that there was a significant uptick in traffic and change due to the app and that it became too much.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- There are subtle links to Florence Avenue of which she was not sure how much additional traffic they may be responsible for.
- It sounded like the main traffic driver was the app.
- Asked if there was a sense amongst the Committee that Florence Avenue is a different case than the rest of the city.
- A lot of the art in our inventory is on public property and drawing people out to parks and other publicly owned land would not present the same issue.

Chair Vertz commented that she considers Florence Avenue to be a different case than the rest of the city because it is the only neighborhood that has the concentration of art that they do.

Committee Member Langberg responded in the affirmative and noted that those owners chose to do that.

Chair Vertz concurred.

Committee Member Langberg commented that the list could easily be limited to include only those located in public places (parks, plazas, and those located off main roads).

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Agreed with Committee Member Langberg's thinking.
- This is a great project with a lot of potential.
- Based on the concerns expressed, he would support leaving the Florence Avenue neighborhood off the app at this point.
- If things go smoothly, additional art could be added down the road.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Suggested tabling this item until after the sculpture garden item at the Art Center is installed and can be included on the app.
- Agreed to limiting it to public art as Committee Member Langberg suggested, which would include some sculptures by Mr. Amiot that are located on public property so he too would be well recognized.
- Perhaps the Committee can dedicate more time to this later.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The Committee can discuss when the optimal time might be in terms of publishing.
- Would be interested in Committee Member Langberg and Chair Vertz continuing their work on getting the information needed for the app together so they can move forward when ready.
- Pleased to hear that the group seems to be in support of figuring out a way to bring this to fruition.

Chair Vertz commented that the technology it already ready.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Chair Vertz has done much of the work.
- Now seems like a great time to go live with this due to the virtual environment that everyone is living in right now.
- This app could get people excited about viewing art, even if only virtually.
- The Committee should move forward with this now.
- Information can always be added or removed later.

Chair Vertz asked Committee Member Langberg if he believed the Committee should move forward using the art inventory which lists art that is placed on publicly owned land.

Committee Member Langberg responded in the affirmative.

Chair Vertz commented:

- They could start with art on publicly owned land and choose not to include publicly viewable art on private property.
- Would be willing to start with a small list, take pictures, and see what the Committee wants to do in terms of next steps.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- The inventory was done about 5 years ago.
- Would be good to check to ensure that the artwork is still in that location, has not been moved, etc.

Committee Member Langberg requested that a copy of the inventory be sent to him.

Chair Vertz stated that she would send the document to Committee Member Langberg.

Chair Vertz and Committee Member Langberg agreed to work through the inventory together.

Chair Vertz asked for additional comments/discussion on the mobile art app.

Hearing none, Chair Vertz concluded discussion of this item.

Committee Member Stucker expressed having additional comments on the community sculpture garden.

Chair Vertz invited Committee Member Stucker to make his comments on the community sculpture garden project.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Thanked Chair Vertz for putting the digital mockup together.

- It may be helpful to do a mockup from another orientation or two.

Chair Vertz responded that she tried, but most of the platforms were obscured by trees.

Committee Member Stucker commented:

- Thanked Chair Vertz for her efforts in attempting to show other orientations.
- Suggested that her mockup be included with the call to give the artists a visual sense of what is planned for the area.
- Likes the idea of meeting outside, as suggested by Committee Member Arnold, if that is allowed for the next meeting.
- Appreciates comments expressed about artists in need right now.
- Believes continued to move forward with the sculpture garden is important and noted that it could potentially include some of those artists in need.

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

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Provided updates on City operations and related support efforts during COVID-19.
- Provided updates on recent and upcoming Council items.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Picking up on comments made by Committee Member Stucker regarding artists in need, it would be nice if the Public Arts Committee could respond to that in some way.

Committee Member Stucker thanked Committee Member Mills-Thysen for her comments and stated that he would be willing to work on a letter from the Committee that could go out to artists expressing support for them during this time while highlighting the projects that the Committee is working towards.

Director Svanstrom suggested the possibility of a letter of support, or something along those lines, from the Committee being included in the now weekly newsletter that is being put out by the City.

Committee Member Stucker commented that he would be willing to draft something.

Director Svanstrom responded that she would appreciate that.

Committee Member Arnold commented that Chair Vertz should be the person tasked with writing something up as the Chair of the Committee.

Chair Vertz responded that she would be happy with Committee Member Stucker on that and commented:

- Rather than a letter of support, she would be interested in an effort that could potentially provide grants, using City funding, to support artists in need during this time.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Hearing two different approaches.

- The first is to do a simple article which would provide an update and an expression of support for local artists from the Committee.
- The second is agendaizing discussion of something more that the Committee may be able to do.

Members of the Committee expressed support for those two items.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Committee Member Arnold 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 11:45 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on June 03, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director