

selling it to the City. The City is in discussion with the lead artist on pricing. If the City does want to retain it, it is likely that the Council would have to approve an allocation out of the Public Art Fund to cover the cost. The piece has some significance for the community. If the lead artist wants to move forward with selling it to the City, the Public Arts Committee would have an opportunity to make a recommendation prior to it going to the Council for final approval.

The Committee asked questions of Director Webster.

Member of the public, Lynn Deedler, interjected with a question.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked a procedural question of Director Webster.

Director Webster explained the public hearing process.

Comments from the Committee on 'The Door' included:

- If we want to keep the piece, we'd like to get it for a little money as possible.
- There are a number of pieces around town of this ilk. It would set a very bad precedent if the City were to purchase this piece.
- The piece has intrinsic value to the city, but none otherwise.
- Expressed not being concerned about precedent as these would be dealt with on an individual basis, if more were to come forward.
- If there is an interest in retaining certain Sculpture Jam pieces, it should be funded by private donation, not using the Public Art Fund.
- The Public Arts Committee should be using the Public Art Fund to bring new, large, and more meaningful art to the city.
- Precedent does matter.
- You have to stand on top of 'The Door' to really see it.
- Pieces should be positioned so they can be seen by passersby on foot and in a car.

The Committee asked additional questions of Director Webster.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Mr. Deedler asked why staff was the first point of contact for the lead artist with regards to 'The Door' and commented that, per their charter, it should be the Public Arts Committee.

Chair Gordon responded that staff is involved to gather information, which may or may not be, depending on what the lead artist wants to do, be brought to the Committee.

Continued comments from the Committee on 'The Door' included:

- Public Art Funds should be used for something that is not already in the community.
- Nothing in the community now would satisfy the desire to fill the spaces that the Committee has talked about for placement of City commissioned public art.
- Buying pieces that people are willing to display for free would not be setting a good precedent.

Chair Gordon asked if, in an indirect way, the Committee's feedback has been helpful for future discussions with the lead artist.

Director Webster responded that their feedback was helpful.

The Committee asked additional questions of Director Webster.

Director Webster noted that, if the lead artist was interested in moving forward with possibly selling the piece to the City, the matter would be placed on a future Public Arts Committee agenda for discussion.

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

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: There were none.

8. REGULAR AGENDA: There were none.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. UPDATE REGARDING SITING OF NED KAHN SCULPTURE: Artist Ned Kahn's proposal was selected by the City Council for the City's first commissioned art work, however, a site selection was deferred. Staff will provide a brief update on site selection.

Director Webster provided an update on various sites.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

Mr. Deedler interjected with a question of Director Webster.

Committee member Arnold asked Mr. Deedler to refrain from speaking outside of the public comment period.

Committee Member Arnold asked a question of Director Webster and commented:

- Identified a City-owned site for consideration. The site, identified as being near the Blincoe trail arbor by the South entrance to the Community Center parking lot, has an existing sculpture on it.
- He was involved with creation and placement of the existing sculpture and volunteered to remove it, if Mr. Kahn's piece is chosen to be placed there.
- The location that he suggested is in a beautiful spot, is visible, calm, quiet, approachable, and is surrounded by wildflowers.
- The location that he suggested has 20' of open space in all directions.
- There is parking along Morris as well as a nearby parking lot.
- The location is near the Laguna, which is something that Mr. Kahn expressed having a preference for.
- The only downside that he could find was that the piece would not be fully visible from Highway 12.
- Love the location.
- Expressed being unsure about any utilities being undergrounded in the area, however, he doubted that that would be an issue.
- The pedestal for the piece will be taller than any potential flood consideration.

Director Webster agreed with Committee Member Arnold's summation and commented that that is a nice spot.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The location that Committee Member Arnold is suggesting seems like a nice place.
- The location seems a little removed and secluded.

- Expressed being concerned with the potential for vandalism.

Committee Member Arnold and Director Webster responded that the location is along Morris Street and didn't share the concern over vandalism.

Chair Gordon asked a clarifying question of Director Webster in terms of the process to bring the suggested site forward for additional consideration.

Director Webster responded.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Suggested either where they did the parklet or in the island in front of Screaming Mimi's.

Director Webster responded:

- That is Caltrans right of way.
- Caltrans would consider the piece a 'fixed object in the roadway' and would not support placement in those areas.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Between the location at the Barlow that was mentioned during the staff report, and the location that Committee Member Arnold suggested, she'd prefer Committee Member Arnold's suggestion.
- Placement at The Barlow would provide a commercial draw and that would not be an appropriate use of public funds.
- The piece will work nicer if it is out in nature.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Thinks Mr. Kahn will like Committee Member Arnold's suggested location.
- Placement at The Barlow will likely help draw people there. While not the Committee's place, it could be an added benefit in terms of helping out the businesses that are there.
- Really likes the location that Committee Member Arnold suggested.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon noted that this matter would return to the Committee at a later date.

Director Webster concurred.

B. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: The Committee is requested to discuss potential sites and other parameters for the next public art project.

Chair Gordon provided an introduction.

Director Webster presented the staff report.

Committee Member Vertz handed out a mock RFP that she created for purposes of discussion.

The Committee discussed the process, included Committee Member Vertz's mock RFP, and suggested some revisions.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that she would create a general template.

Committee Member Vertz commented that she would be willing to adapt her template once a project is identified.

Chair Gordon asked to hear from the Committee on potential sites for the next public art piece.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Coming in from the South; on either side of the driveway entering the City parking lot by Hopmonk and across from The Feed Store, there are two spots which are City-owned. One of the spots currently has a Sculpture Jam piece on it.
- Coming in from the North; a triangular landscape median at Covert Lane and Highway 116.
- The fountain area in front of the library could serve as a pedestal for a future piece.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The north wall at the front of the library, which currently has a type of mural on it, could be considered for a future artwork as well.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Liked the blank wall at the library that was used in Committee Member Vertz's mock RFP.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Expressed liking the location that was used in Committee Member Vertz's mock RFP as well.
- Expressed liking the first two locations that were suggested by Committee Member Arnold.
- Around or at the location of the 'Peace Wall' if it were to be moved elsewhere, because that is a very choice location.
- At the plaza, if room.

Chair Gordon commented:

- The rain barrels in front of City Hall could be a good location for imagery.

Committee Member Vertz commented that she liked Chair Gordon's suggestion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Spooner Park, if the solar array was reorganized in a more coherent and meaningful way, could be a good place for a sculpture at a primary entrance to town.
- The mound, along Morris Street, by the City Corporation Yard could also be a good place.

The Committee asked additional questions of Director Webster.

Committee members noted that some of the locations mentioned could also be considered for Mr. Kahn's piece.

10. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE/STAFF:

Committee Member Vertz commented that she was approached by someone who requested that the City make a \$300 donation for an upcoming Literature and Art Crawl. The person works with the Downtown Association and commented that the funds would be used for posters and flyers for the event.

Chair Gordon and Director Webster responded.

Director Webster noted that, if not requesting to use money from the Public Art Fund, the request would have to be made of the City Council. If the request was to use money from the Public Art Fund, the matter would have to be placed on a future Public Arts Committee meeting agenda and approved by the City Council.

Committee Member Vertz thanked Director Webster for the clarification.

11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 12:05 p.m. to the regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held June 07, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster
Planning Director