

- The Council recently denied an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision and has therefor approved a thirty-five foot antenna for KOWS at the Pleasant Hill Reservoir Site.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

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

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. REVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS: Three artists were selected to proceed in the review process for a public art project in Sebastopol. The artists will each make a 10-minute presentation, followed by up to 20 minutes of Committee member questions, and an opportunity for public comment.

Artists:

- a. Vickie Jo Sowell
- b. Ilana Spector/Mark Grieve
- c. Ned Kahn

The Committee agreed to a special meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the comments and feedback received thus far.

Committee member Persinger commented that he might not be able to attend the meeting on November 16.

Ms. Sowell gave a presentation and was available for questions.

Committee member Vertz asked a procedural question.

Committee member Persinger asked if the piece could be moved once installed.

Ms. Sowell responded that it was.

Committee member Persinger asked what would happen if/when plants died.

Ms. Sowell responded that they could be easily replaced.

Committee member Persinger asked if the steel would be painted.

Ms. Sowell responded that it would be galvanized.

Committee member Vertz asked how high off the ground the piece would be.

Ms. Sowell responded that it would be in the planter, which is about two feet high off of the ground.

Committee member Vertz asked how often Ms. Sowell would be coming to Sebastopol for maintenance.

Ms. Sowell responded:

- She would come about once per month although she didn't think that it would really require that.
- Her basic fear was that it would like it too much, that it would overgrow which would require that she come and nip them.

Committee member Vertz asked about vandalism.

Ms. Sowell responded that she would replace whatever was vandalized.

Committee member Vertz asked about it being a tripping hazard.

Ms. Sowell responded that it would not be in anyone's path.

Committee member Vertz asked what she estimated as an annual maintenance cost for the City, after her agreement to maintain it expires in five years.

Ms. Sowell estimated an annual maintenance cost of about \$1,000.

Committee member Mills-Thysen thanked Ms. Sowell for coming and for presenting such a lovely proposal.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked a clarifying question on how the plants would be housed.

Ms. Sowell responded that every section would have plants and that in the end it would look like a topiary of succulents.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about disease.

Ms. Sowell responded:

- Succulents don't disease.
- Succulents can die of frost however the proposed succulents are frost-resistant.
- Succulents can drown but should be fine with proper drainage.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about their lifespan.

Ms. Sowell responded that succulents live longer than humans.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about maintenance when the succulents grow and expand.

Ms. Sowell responded that they would need to be pruned.

Committee member Mills-Thysen clarified that Ms. Sowell is projecting approximately \$1,000 as annual maintenance costs for the City to bear after the first five years.

Ms. Sowell agreed.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Succulents are very successful in this area.
- There are several really incredible succulent gardens here.
- Suggested that Ms. Sowell get in contact with the operators of those.
- There is a lot of interest in succulents in this area.
- Succulents are beautiful plants and they grow like crazy.

Chair Gordon asked if Ms. Sowell thought that maintenance of the succulents was something that City staff could be trained on.

Ms. Sowell responded that she believed that they could be.

Chair Gordon asked about frost damage.

Ms. Sowell responded that they might have to be replaced, which she'd be happy to do.

Chair Gordon asked if the colors on the maquette were based on the plants that she had chosen.

Ms. Sowell responded that they were.

Chair Gordon commented that he'd like to see as many local natives used as possible.

Ms. Sowell agreed and commented that those are what like to live here.

Chair Gordon asked if the colors would blend over time.

Ms. Sowell responded that they would.

Chair Gordon commented that this is a very interesting project however he has some genuine concerns about maintenance.

Chair Gordon commented that galvanized metal is wonderful but it eventually stops being galvanized.

Ms. Sowell responded:

- The metal would break at the edges, but not much.
- Much of it wouldn't be visible.
- The purpose of it being galvanized is for water resistance.

Chair Gordon asked about the bolts and other hardware.

Ms. Sowell responded that they would be stainless steel.

Chair Gordon commented that they make plastics that are really rigid however he was not sure if they'd be able to support this piece structurally.

Ms. Sowell responded that she prefers metal for the structure.

Chair Gordon asked about her choice for drip irrigation.

Ms. Sowell responded that drip irrigation was the way to go and that each section would be on its own timer.

Chair Gordon asked about a clog in the drip irrigation.

Ms. Sowell commented that she'd clear it and cited that as a reason for wanting front and back access to the piece.

Committee member Warren asked if the timer would be battery powered or connected electrically.

Ms. Sowell responded that a battery-operated timer would be used. Said timer would last about three years.

Committee member Arnold comments that succulents prefer sandy soil and asked about the type of soil that would be used.

Ms. Sowell responded that a good mixture of succulent soil would be used.

Committee member Arnold asked how many plants would be used in total.

Ms. Sowell responded that at least one hundred fifty plants would be used every twenty inches, which would equate to thousands of plants in total.

Committee member Arnold asked if Ms. Sowell had a history of working with this scale.

Ms. Sowell responded that she did not. She noted that it would take a ladder to reach the top.

Committee member Arnold asked about gardeners appropriating plants and asked if that could be an issue.

Ms. Sowell responded that people would probably take some of the runners and noted that that wouldn't hurt the piece.

Committee member Arnold asked if this project would be a first for her.

Ms. Sowell responded that it would. She commented that that was why she was giving a five-year warranty so as to figure out the maintenance of it.

Chair Gordon asked for more questions or comments from the Committee.

Committee members Persinger and Vertz had nothing further.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked if the succulents would get bigger and drape.

Ms. Sowell responded that they would be like a carpet.

Chair Gordon commented that the succulents change colors with the seasons.

Ms. Sowell agreed.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked what she envisioned in terms of maintenance for the drip irrigation system.

Ms. Sowell responded that most of the time, drip irrigation fails because it gets dirty and need to be cleaned.

Chair Gordon asked if Ms. Sowell would be amenable to extending her contract for maintenance of the piece beyond year give.

Ms. Sowell responded that she would love to continue to take care of the piece.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon asked if members of the public wished to speak.

An unidentified woman commented:

- Asked if the applicant was aware that these succulents migrate south and will all move southwest.

Ms. Sowell responded that she was aware of that.

The same unidentified woman commented:

- The whole installation looks stunning and is beautiful.
- Thanked Ms. Sowell for her proposal.
- Asked for the dimensions of the piece.

Ms. Sowell gave the dimensions of the piece.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about sun exposure at the alternate site.

Ms. Sowell commented that it would grow slower at the other site.

Cie Cary, a resident of Sebastopol, asked how many drip emitters would be used.

Ms. Sowell responded that one per section, so about three thousand emitters.

Ms. Cary stated that the issue of clogging could be a big one with that many emitters.

Chair Gordon asked if the timer would be adjusted per season.

Ms. Sowell responded that the time could be easily adjusted.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about maintenance once the plants form a carpet.

Ms. Sowell responded that they would clump and fall apart.

Ms. Spector and Mr. Grieve gave a presentation and were available for questions.

Committee member Persinger thanked Mr. Grieve and Ms. Spector for coming and presenting their piece and asked what type of cable would be used.

Mr. Grieve responded that stainless steel aircraft cable would be used.

Committee member Persinger asked what size cable would be used.

Mr. Grieve responded that various sizes may be used depending on the span.

Committee member Persinger asked if the poles would be greased or some other measure taken to keep people from climbing on the poles.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- The poles will be about fourteen feet high.
- Does not think that people will want to climb it because it is right in the middle of town.
- People will probably climb light poles and trees instead.
- If people want to climb something they will.
- The outward bend of the pole will make it a lot more difficult for somebody to climb.

Committee member Persinger asked about the use of glass.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- Cast glass will be used.
- Planning to use many mediums.
- Hoping for a lot of translucency.

Committee Member Vertz asked about there being enough room for this piece with all of the trees that are already in the plaza.

Mr. Grieve and Ms. Spector responded that they kept the composition open so that it can be placed where it will be most appropriate within that general area.

Committee member Vertz asked if they had done anything similar to this before.

Mr. Grieve stated that they had.

Committee member Vertz asked how to scale the maquette is.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- Explained their process.
- Could adapt the piece depending on where it is placed.
- Maintenance will consist of power washing maybe once per year.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about the safety strip and how it would be illuminated.

Mr. Grieve responded that electric yellow paint would be used and noted that it would be in good contrast to the forest green of the poles. As for lighting, he noted the many streetlights in and around the plaza.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about the possibility of one of the strung items breaking off.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- That was one of the first things they thought about when they designed it.
- Understands the importance of making it as durable as possible.

- The steel cables will have nylon bushing and there will be cable stops around each bead to prevent them from smacking into each other.
- A lot of these beads will be 1 ½” to 2” thick.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked about safety in terms of people throwing shoes up in an attempt to get them caught on the cables.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- Kids are going to do what they’re going to do regardless.
- Hoping that the location will be too public for people to want to risk vandalizing it.

Ms. Spector noted that something like shoes wrapped around the cables could be easily removed.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked if placement of this piece would create concerns for maintenance in terms of vehicle access.

Director Webster responded that they could work around that.

Chair Gordon thanked Mr. Grieve and Ms. Spector for the presentation and commented:

- Kids can be seen climbing everything during the farmers market.
- The matter of safety is a problem which he was unsure how to cope with.
- A kid that can climb up four feet and fall can hurt themselves just as much as a kid that can climb up fifteen feet and fall.
- This will be an inviting target for somebody with nefarious motives.
- Greased poles are an interesting idea.

Chair Gordon asked for the height of the bottom of the lower cable.

Mr. Grieve responded that it would be twelve feet.

Chair Gordon commented that that would be tantalizingly close to a child.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- As a parent he understands the concerns expressed.
- Unsure with how to create a barrier for safety.
- Hopes to address life safety issues when it gets to the engineering stage.
- Tactile barriers around the base of the pieces are often used.
- The big challenge is to make something dynamic, beautiful and elegant that is safe.
- They have a number of options to consider in terms of safety.

Chair Gordon asked about the beading idea.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- The beading idea is coming from the sum total of his life right now and Sebastopol is providing him the perfect opportunity to show that.
- Felt like the right piece for a community like Sebastopol.

Ms. Spector added that the piece connotes and honors the creativity of this community.

Chair Gordon stated that he was glad to see the model.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- Thanked Mr. Grieve and Ms. Spector.
- The plaza is very cluttered. The artists have addressed that well by having it rise above however, there are a lot of trees at the plaza too.
- He did not think that this piece would be well seen.
- Asked how the piece would be sited to ensure that the trees were not an obstruction to viewing.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- There are a lot of areas under the canopy where the trees don't touch each other.
- Areas with windows to the sky would be great opportunities for this piece.
- Trying to tie everything together with the piece.
- There is a straight line long enough for them to place their piece along the south edge of the plaza. A really nice walkway and a couple of benches are already in the area.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- Wouldn't worry about vandalism.
- Parents enable that.
- People will climb it if they want to which shouldn't be the artist's worry.
- Reiterated his concern about lack of visibility.
- The target audience should not be people passing by in cars.
- Would really like to see the placement of this piece on a map of the plaza or story poles.

Mr. Grieve responded that they kept placement a little vague so that they could place it in the exact right place.

Committee member Arnold asked about the 'weatherproofing' budget item.

Mr. Grieve responded that the whole piece is stainless and that that line item was left in error.

Ms. Spector noted that the powder coating was included in the materials line item.

Committee member Arnold asked about the 'special inspection' budget item.

Mr. Grieve responded that that is to cover the welding inspector.

Committee member Arnold asked about the 'consultation' budget item.

Mr. Grieve responded that that was to cover all of the people they are going to have to hire to create this piece.

Committee member Arnold asked about the method of installation.

Mr. Grieve explained the process.

Committee member Arnold asked about the weight of the poles.

Mr. Grieve stated that each pole was probably around four hundred pounds.

Committee member Arnold commented that he knows a company that rents equipment to artists at a favorable rate.

Mr. Grieve responded that every dime that they save will go right back into the piece, to make it even more dynamic.

Committee member Arnold asked about the 'studio rental' budget item.

Mr. Grieve responded that that was to cover the costs of the studio that they rent while working on this piece.

Committee member Arnold thanked Mr. Grieve and Ms. Spector and commented that they had done a good job.

Committee member Persinger asked Director Webster asked a clarifying question about the budget.

Ms. Spector and Mr. Grieve responded that they have never gone over budget before.

Committee member Persinger asked if there was a maintenance budget.

Ms. Spector and Mr. Grieve responded that there was no maintenance budget as maintenance would be very minimal.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon asked if members of the public wished to speak.

An unidentified woman asked if the pieces would move and about the potential for pieces to break and fall off.

Ms. Spector and Mr. Grieve responded that the pieces would not move and commented unless a catastrophe, the pieces should not break or fall.

An unidentified woman asked about glare from the sun or other lights against the metal pieces and commented that her husband has trouble driving at night due to the reflection of light from chrome bumpers.

Ms. Spector and Mr. Grieve responded that light wouldn't distract and noted that this piece would be fourteen feet up in the air and would not be in the roadway itself.

The same unidentified woman commented that the plaza is too cluttered and asked about an alternate location.

Mr. Grieve responded:

- Thinks this piece could work in any of the available locations in town.
- Wants this piece to work for the community.
- Doesn't want to impede success of the piece.

Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m. for a brief break.

Chair Gordon resumed the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Director Webster commented that the Director of the Community Center looked at all three of the proposals and said that she'd be happy to host any one these pieces on the Community Center property which has a lot of space.

Ned Kahn gave a presentation and was available for questions.

Committee member Persinger asked if a person climbing it was a concern.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- Anyone can climb anything these days.
- Depending on where it is placed, the base will probably be about ten feet tall.
- This will not be easily climbable and will not invite it.
- If it were to be climbed and/or vandalized, the materials are relatively robust and the piece is entirely fixable.
- Out of over one hundred public art commissions in thirty plus years, there has been only one incident of vandalism that he knows about.
- The entire piece is modular and replaceable if someone were to mess with it.

Committee member Persinger commented that the budget acknowledges that the piece will cost quite a bit more than the City's budget allows and that the balance will be donated and asked for clarification on that.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- He will not ask for more than the budgeted amount.
- He will call in some favors and in-kind donations to make this work.

Committee member Persinger thanked Mr. Kahn for his presentation.

Committee member Vertz expressed a concern with this being a spectacle in an already congested area.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- If sited on the north side of Highway 12, people can park at the trailhead near the Chevron station and walk over and be close to the piece.
- If on the south side, Tomodachi Park could provide parking and access to the piece.

Committee member Vertz asked if the piece would be sixty feet tall.

Mr. Kahn responded in the affirmative.

Committee member Vertz asked Director Webster about the conservation easement area.

Director Webster responded:

- Information on that was included in the packet.
- The Open Space District informally stated that they did not think that they would be able to approve placement within the easement, as they did not think that doing so would be consistent with the easement parameters.
- Caltrans owns the highway and the right of way adjacent to it so if placed in the Caltrans right of way the easement would not apply.
- There are other siting opportunities for all three of the pieces.

Committee member Vertz commented that the engineering budget seems low.

Mr. Kahn responded that he has worked with the same engineer for a number of years and that he has given him a lot of work. In light of that, he cut him some slack for this project.

Committee member Vertz asked why having a piece in Sebastopol was so important to him.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- Sebastopol is his hometown; he has lived here for twenty years.
- Has an appreciation for Sebastopol.
- Appreciates that the Public Arts Committee is getting this off the ground and wants to help by starting it off with something really good.

Committee member Vertz thanked Mr. Kahn.

Committee member Mills-Thysen expressed a concern with vandalism and asked if Mr. Kahn was worried about people jumping up and tagging or tapping it.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- It is a very robust piece.
- In his experience, that has never been an issue.

Committee member Mills-Thysen asked if he would be willing to consider any adaptation of the structure and suggested possible fluidity to the shape.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- Expressed being totally and completely open to adapting the structure.
- Most of his work these days is very collaborative.
- Competitions don't allow for collaboration.
- There are many variations worth exploring.
- Expressed being open to continuing the dialogue.
- Encouraged the members to drive out and view the maquette.
- The surface area has a lot of variability as it moves.
- Loves evolving designs.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Size and placement are important considerations.
- This piece in the proposed location will punctuate an otherwise very natural, scenic view and will really stand out.
- Asked if other locations had been considered.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- Yes, it could go in many different locations.
- Could bring the maquette around and place it in different locations to get some sensory feedback.
- Appreciates the intent of the conservation easement.
- The proposed location struck him as a place to augment the beauty of the landscape.
- This would provide people with something beautiful to look at when they're stuck in traffic.
- His piece would punctuate that entrance to Sebastopol.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- Thanked Mr. Kahn for being here.
- It is important that this piece be placed on City property, if possible.

- Questioned how ownership of the piece would be affected if it were to go on land owned by Caltrans.

Director Webster responded that one of the original parameters was that the artwork be placed on City property.

Committee member Arnold commented:

- If on City property and someone gets injured, the City's insurance would cover their hospital bills.
- It may be worth a try to see if the Open Space District would be willing to bend their rules regarding the conservation easement for this artwork as he considered it to be a perfect site for it.
- The south side of the bridge has City land too.
- There are several options within that zone.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- In some ways, the park on the south side may be his preference.
- Understands from Director Webster that the Open Space District has an open space easement at Tomodachi Park as well.

Director Webster responded:

- Tomodachi Park has a conservation easement, Village Park does not.
- Identified a couple of areas, one on each side of the bridge, that were City owned and possible locations.

Mr. Kahn responded that there are many siting possibilities and the design is entirely pliable.

Committee member Arnold asked if the \$8,500 listed for 'outside assembly' included his employee's salary.

Mr. Kahn responded in the affirmative.

Committee member Arnold asked if the piece would be built in sections.

Mr. Kahn responded in the affirmative.

Committee member Arnold asked how many sections there would be.

Mr. Kahn responded that it would be made up of ten-foot modules. He then explained the process of assembly and installation.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon asked if members of the public wished to speak.

An unidentified woman asked if the pieces were blue.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- They would not be blue.
- They are reflective of the sky, which is why they appear blue.

The same unidentified woman asked if the pieces would be highly reflective.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- The pieces would let off little glints of light.
- This will be a highly fragmented surface and will not be as reflective as lights, shiny car surface or long storefront windows.
- The intent is not to blind anyone.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon thanked all of the artists and expressed being appreciative of their patience while moving through what has been a long process. He added that he was looking forward to the meeting tonight and concluded the meeting.

10. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE/STAFF: There were none.

11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:59 a.m. to a special Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held November 02, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 South High Street, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster
Planning Director