City of Sebastopol

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City Council
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John Eder
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Attorney
Larry McLaughlin
City Clerk
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Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager/City Attorney

Meeting Date: Meeting of September 6, 2016
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
Subject: Sebastopol Living Peace Wall Annual Nominee Designations
Funding: Currently Budgeted: ___ Yes ____ No _x_N/A
Net General Fund Cost:
If Cost to Other Fund(s),
Recommendation: Accept Nominations

The Sebastopol Living Peace Wall is located on City property, at the southeast corner of McKinley Avenue and Petaluma Avenue. The Peace Wall is intended to honor efforts to promote peace.

As approved by the City Council, the persons proposed to be honored on the Peace Wall are required to be reviewed by the City Council, since the Wall is located on public property. As described in the attached submittal, the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall Committee has submitted four names proposed to be inscribed on the Wall: Jimmy Carter; Lucy Forest; Linda Sartor; and Dr. Charles O. Prickett.

The attached submittal provides information about each proposed honoree.

Attachment: Proposed Peace Wall Honorees

The City of Sebastopol
7/26/16

Att: kwebster@cityofsebastopol.org

RE: Sebastopol Living Peace Wall
2016 Honorees

The Sebastopol Living Peace Wall Selection Committee was convened on July 25, 2016. The committee members present were:

Michael Gillotti, Chairman, Richard Retecki, Vice Chairman, Paul Robbins from Redwood Friends group, Rev. Judith Stone, Ret., Alice Waco from the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center

After a thorough review and discussion of the nominees, the following four persons were selected to be honored for the year 2016. Upon your approval their names will be inscribed onto the Living Peace Wall and added to the roll of honorees on the peace wall web site, www.sebastopollivingpeacewall.com.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support in promoting the cause of peace and justice by honoring those who have dedicated their lives to this cause.

1. Jimmy Carter
2. Lucy Forest
3. Linda Sartor
4. Dr. Charles O.Prickett

Bios:

1. Jimmy Carter 1924 —

The 39th President of The United States from 1977 to 1981. Though Carter's greatest contribution to peace while president was the signing of the Israeli-Egypt Camp David Peace Accords, which he worked tirelessly to accomplish, most of his work for peace and justice has been done since he left office. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Carter Center in 2002.

In 1982 he set up the Carter Center as a base for advancing human rights. Since then he has traveled extensively to conduct peace negotiations, observe elections, and advance disease prevention and eradication in developing nations. In addition, Carter is a key figure in the Habitat for Humanity Project, which has built thousands of houses for impoverished families here and abroad.

2. Lucy Forest 1920 — 2015

Lucy Forest was a compact woman with a great steely determination to do whatever she could to resolve or prevent injustice, war and other distortions of humanity. A revered elder among Sonoma County's activists, Forest wielded her intellect and collaborative skills to build consensus to act against homelessness, neglect of the elderly, abuse of workers, discrimination and militarism. She co-founded the Peace and Justice Center in Santa Rosa as well as the Santa Rosa Creek Commons housing cooperative.

Later in life she became a leader of the Gray Panthers and authored "On The Plus Side" column in the Press Democrat. She advocated for seniors in areas such as housing, health care and continuing education. Throughout her long life she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others and promote the cause of peace and justice.

3. Linda Sartor 1954 —

Linda Sartor has not only talked the talk of peace activism and nonviolence, she has walked the walk. For ten years after 9/11 she repeatedly put her life on the line as a citizen peacemaker by traveling to a variety of violent conflict zones throughout the world. She has traveled to Israel, Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iran and Bahrain as an unarmed peacekeeper and witness. She has written a book about these experiences, ***Turning Fear Into Power.***

In addition, Linda has worked with several organizations focused on nonviolent action. She was awarded **Peacemaker of The Year** by the Peace and Justice Center and currently serves on their board.

Though she is a very humble person, she has demonstrated tremendous courage and passion by risking her life to further the cause of peace and justice.

4. Dr. Charles O. Prickett 1946 —

Charles Prickett has been a long time civil rights activist. Throughout his career he has been guided by the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, namely, nonviolent resistance to racism and discrimination. He attended the March on Washington in 1963, participated as a volunteer and paid staff as the co-director of the Valley View Project in the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, and helped organize and participated in the Selma-Montgomery March in 1965.

He has recently written a book, *Remembering Mississippi Freedom Summer,* chronicling the experiences he had as an active participant of the civil rights movement. He helped make a movie in 1964, *A Regular Bouquet,* which is the only film record of Freedom Schools and voter registration efforts from the Freedom Summer. Images from this film have been used in the PBS series *Eyes On the Prize* and *Freedom Summer.*

Charles regularly lectures about the civil rights movement to classes at area schools, including middle schools, community colleges and colleges and universities. He has been the featured speaker at multiple Martin Luther King observances at SRJC.

COMMENTS FROM 2015 HONOREES

I.

Monday, January 11, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing concerning the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall. I understand that there is some concerns about the placement of Peace Activist who are still alive on the wall. I am one of the two activist who have been honored to have my name placed on the Living Peace Wall.

The concept of having individuals, who are still living on the wall, is to me what is so unique and wonderful about this Living Peace Wall. Life is ever moving, changing, and is anything but static. Working for Peace is likewise "a work in progress."

The inclusion of my name on the wall has meant so much to me. It is a statement to my community, and to the world, that the work that I have done in pursuit of establishing a peaceful planet, has not gone unnoticed. That the very small part I have contributed is one more step towards the achievement of our goal. My family, which includes my daughter, son, grandsons, sister, mother, and ex-wife, are all very proud and happy for me.

I'm not stating anything new when I say the world can be a pretty depressing place at times, more so if one happens to be on the '*front lines*', and your having to deal with the harsh realities of life. To receive an honor such as being placed on the Living Peace Wall, can pull you through those hard, dark times, and give you the courage, strength, and the wherewithal to wake up the next day, and do it all again.

I have no problems with honoring the dead, but I ask you how often do you see anything that pays respect to and celebrates the victories of those who are still alive, and can draw on the power and energy that exist within their communities.

I have tried to come up with a name that would define what the Peace Wall is all about, but the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall nails it. This wall is alive with the spirit of those who have been honored and continue to work for Peace with justice, in a non-violent manner.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,

Peace,
Bar Ponneck

II.

ALICIA SANCHEZ
P.O. BOX 1308
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95473
Tel. & fax (707) 829-1703 Email: balcua@att.net

March 1, 2016

Dear Sebastopol City Council members,

I was asked to write this letter in support of having the names of persons still living (not just deceased) on the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall. Being one of the first persons to be honored, I can sincerely tell you that it makes a great difference to be given this honor while you are still alive.

The people who inspired me the most were those who I got to know or saw/met and see doing the wonderful works while they were alive like my parents, and Cesar Chavez. Once they were deceased, I viewed them more mythically and felt it was harder to reach the level of their greatness. What I get from their memories is not motivation to do the day to day tasks to achieve social justice/peace but admiration and good memories. After people are dead their memories are larger than life and their examples can be intimidating. While a person is still alive, you realize they are human too and you feel you can accomplish at least a part of what they have done. I believe that people who meet me are more likely to say I can do that too! People have in fact approached me and say they are inspired to see my name on the wall. This, in turn, inspires me to stay on the course and finish it.

Although it is daunting to see my name on the wall in the company of Nelson Mandela, I believe that peace can only be attained by the small individual acts of ordinary people and not just the superhuman effort of heroes.

I have devoted my life for peace and social justice for my children and for others to follow on my path. By being honored, I hope to inspire others to continue to do the work to better the lives of others.

Thank you for your attention this matter of permitting the names of living individuals to go on the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall, a symbol of present every day activists struggling for peace, equality and justice.

Sincerely,
Alicia Sanchez
Alicia Sanchez

III.

February 15, 2016

Martie H. Leys
Collaborative Attorney and Mediator
124 Howard Street
Petaluma, CA

Re: Living Peace Wall

Dear Mayor and City Council Members of Sebastopol:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your part in honoring my father, George Mills Houser for his work over his lifetime to promote the cause of peace, equality and justice in this society and the world. I only wish that he had been alive to accept the honor of his name being one of the first four to be inscribed on the Living Peace Wall in your community.

As I reflect on the meaning of the Living Peace Wall, two thoughts come to mind. The wall is a living testimonial to those who are committing and have committed their life's work, priorities and energy to furthering the cause of love and peace among all of humanity. First, it is" living" in the sense that each year, new names will be added, and over years, the reminder of those individuals who are among us, or have been among us will inspire others to join in their efforts and follow in their footsteps to find each one's own unique way(s) to promote harmony in the human family. It is also" living" in the sense that many of those who will be honored are still alive and will receive an acknowledgment, an affirmation that their efforts are recognized. For such individuals it will inspire renewal and confidence that their path is good and right at those inevitable times when weariness and discouragement can sometimes cloud the vision.

I encourage you to continue to expand your vision to include all advocates for peace, whether living or deceased. My father was a quiet warrior, if I may use that term for a committed pacifist, who struggled diligently for a peaceful and just world. As my father would have gained immense satisfaction and affirmation for his work, by the honor bestowed on him posthumously, so too will others who work tirelessly for their vision of peace gain satisfaction and encouragement if they are so lucky to be alive when the honor of being named on the Living Peace Wall is bestowed.

With Gratitude,

Martie H. Leys

APPENDIX I

Sebastopol Living Peace Wall

NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS
2-10–15

A. OVERVIEW

1. Nominations for honorees will be made on the web site,www.Sebastopollivingpeacewall.com, no later than May 1 to be considered for that particular year.
   * Note: We have been assured by the city attorney that a disclaimer on the web site relieves the City of Sebastopol of liability for the site and its content.

2. Nominations will be reviewed by the Living Peace Wall Selection Committee comprised of: Michael Gillotti, Richard Retecki, a member of the local religious community, Rev. Eugene Nelson, a member of the Peace and Justice Center, and a member of the Friends (Quaker) House.

3. Four honorees will be chosen from the nominees by July 1 each year. At least one person per year must be a Sonoma County resident. At least one person per year must be a non public figure who has worked behind the scenes for peace and justice. without recognition,

4. Honorees names and applications (see below) will be submitted to the Sebastopol City Council for final approval. Any persons found to be unacceptable will be replaced with alternative names and re-submitted for approval.

5. Honoree's names will be added to the Living Peace Wall and an induction ceremony held each year on or near Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, Oct. 2 and will be added to the web site roll of honorees for all to view and be inspired by.

B. MORE DETAILS

1. **Who can nominate an honoree:** You must be a Sonoma County resident to make a nomination.

2. **Who can be nominated:** Anyone you feel has demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice through non-violent action and peaceful resolution of conflict. They may be living or deceased, a local, national or international person. No person who advocates for violent change will be considered.

3. **How to nominate an honoree:** Follow the directions on the web site and submit the following:
    a. Your name and contact information
    b. The nominees name and contact information (if available)
    c. Your relationship to the nominee
    d. A brief biography of the nominee (for example place of birth, education, work, family etc.
    e. An essay, no longer than one page describing what they have done to promote peace and justice and non-violent resolution of conflict, and why you feel they deserve to be recognized for their work by being inducted into the Living Peace Wall. Be sure to include any applicable factors in no.4 below.

4. **What is the selection process:** Honorees will be selected from the pool of nominees considering the following factors:

    a. Length of time involved in peace / justice activism
    b. Experience in organizing peace and justice activities, such as events, marches, letter writing etc.
    c. Leadership experiences
    d. Behind the scenes actives, such as phone calls, e mails, mailings, graphic design etc.
    e. Articles, books, poems written.
    g. Involvement in special projects which promote peace and justice
    h. Involvement in non-violent resolution of conflicts
    i. Have demonstrated a commitment to non-violent approaches in their communications and actions in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, who considered even their adversaries as worthy of respect.

    Note: Nominees not selected for a particular year will be kept in the pool and will be considered for subsequent years. In other words, just because someone was not chosen one year does not mean they won't be chosen in another. It is our intention that as many deserving people as possible will eventually be honored.

5. **Selection Committee** (see A.2 above) The Selection Committee shall have five members. As one member leaves the committee, the remaining members will select a replacement by simple majority.

C. SAMPLE APPLICATION (fictitious)

a. Nominee: Jim Markley Jimmk@comcast.com

b. Nominated by: Sarah Smith sarah@comcast.net

c. Relationship to nominee: There is no direct relationship. I've been a long time admirer.

d. Bio.: Jim was born in June 2, 1950, graduated from Fresno State University. Has lived in outside Sebastopol for 30 years. He lives with his wife and has two grown children. He has recently retired as a social worker for Marin County. He has organized many rallies and protests and has worked as an instructor on non-violent conflict resolution. In 2009 he was honored as Peacemaker of the Year by the Peace and Justice Center.

In addition he has authored two books on the process and benefits of non violent communication. One titled, *Love Is The Answer*, and the second, *Violence Never Resolves Anything*.

e. Essay: I believe Jim deserves to be honored by induction into the Living Peace Wall because he has demonstrated a commitment to peace and non violence in oh so many ways. As mentioned above, he has been an instructor on non violent actions and conflict resolution, where he has trained others to approach personal and institutional conflicts with love and peace in one's heart and to avoid falling into the negative state of hatred or violent confrontation. This is in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi's approach of touching your opponents heart with love and not with hatred. In this way you are not forcing or overpowering the other, but rather influencing them toward a fair and just resolution.

I have been in demonstrations and in classes that Jim has led and was impressed at his leadership and commitment to the principles of non-violence. He truly walks the talk. He has had a very positive influence on me and many others. I am honored to nominate Jim and hope you will consider him for induction into the Living Peace Wall.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Thank you,
Sarah Smith

D. EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL NOMINEES

Of course there are many people who would be great candidates for the Living Peace Wall. The following are simply a few examples of local and national figures.

A. Jim Corbett (Mr. Music) -- Brings music to the schools;founder and leader of the Love Choir; Catalyst for Peacetown summer concerts; designed and built the Peace Garden outside Community Center.

B. Tui Wilshinsky - Has been leading and teaching Dances of Universal Peace for over 30 years here in Sebastopol and throughout the world designed to promote peace through an understanding of our common humanity 444regardless of race, religion or nationality.

C. Phyllis Meachan -- a Sebastopol resident; has worked tirelessly for peace between Israel and Palestine

D. Cezar Chavez --worked non violently, in the model of Martin Luther King, to improve farmworker conditions and rights.

E. Nelson Mandela -- Led South Africa to a non violent transition from Apartheid a black majority democracy by promoting reconciliation and not retaliation

F. Various Peace and Justice Center's Peace Maker of the year recipients or other members who have worked tirelessly year after year.