



City of Sebastopol

Public Arts Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date: April 6, 2016
To: Public Arts Committee
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
Subject: Agenda Items
Recommendation: Discuss Items

This memorandum discusses the agenda items for the April 6 Committee meeting.

Item 9A, Discussion of Village Building Convergence Projects.

The Committee asked that a representative of VBC attend a Committee meeting to have a general discussion of how the VBC approaches its annual projects and process.

Item 9B, Discussion of Potential Site for Sculpture Area.

The Committee has had several discussions of the concept of a designated area for miscellaneous sculptures, such as those created through the Sculpture Jam process, or other pieces proposed to be donated to the City. The general concept is that once an area was designated, such sculptures would only be placed in the area, rather than being authorized for placement on other City property. The Committee appeared to be in general consensus on the concept of a designated sculpture area, and asked for additional discussion of a specific recommendation for an appropriate site. Staff notes that such a site would need to be large enough to accommodate a number of sculptures and should also have suitable access such as nearby parking, and sidewalk access. With most City properties having other uses, it may be difficult to identify such a site. One site that may be large enough, but is deficient in terms of access due to lack of a sidewalk and the site's slope, is the large grassy area on the Morris Street side of the Public Works property. A possible smaller area is the grass area on the Johnson Street side of the Public Works site, which is not sloped and has an adjacent sidewalk. Placement of sculptures in either grass area would create a maintenance issue in terms of mowing and weeding. Ideally a 'sculpture garden' would be designed for that purpose, including minimizing maintenance issues. Any Committee recommendations on the concept, and a site will be provided to the City Council.

Item 9C, Discussion of Review Process for Review of Response to Request for Qualifications for Public Art Project.

Responses to the RFQ are due May 16. The Committee is expected to identify up to three finalists, who would then be asked to submit art proposals. The Committee requested discussion of how responses to the RFQ will be reviewed. Options and issues include:

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- Provision of all the responses to the full Committee, and discussion/selection of finalists at a Committee meeting. Without prior review, this process may be somewhat unwieldy.
- Formation of a two-member subcommittee, with staff assistance, which is tasked with reviewing submittals and making a selection recommendation to the full Committee. This would allow in-depth review prior to full Committee deliberation, and may facilitate the selection process.
- Staff review of the submittals, with selection recommendations to the full Committee. This would not have the benefit of Committee member expertise, but staff is prepared to undertake this task if so directed.
- Any rating or review criteria that the Committee thinks should be used in ranking submittals.
- Integrating public comment into the review process. This could take several forms, from the normal agenda process where members of the public can comment at meetings or with written submittals; or could include the addition of posting submittals on the City web site for a period of time, well in advance of a selection discussion to provide an opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions.
- Another question is whether names of artists should be omitted from review materials. Some artists may be readily identifiable through their work and resume; it is unclear if omitting names is necessary.