



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

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

Committee Member Persinger asked staff if the Public Arts Committee was subject to the same geographic limitations as the Design Review Board and other bodies.

Director Webster responded that he believed that they were and would check with the City Attorney to be sure.

The Committee asked additional questions of staff on the matter.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR:** There were none.

**8. REGULAR AGENDA:** There were none.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE PROJECTS:** The VBC plans to implement a number of community projects in April 2016. The projects have been approved by the City Council. The Committee requested general discussion of VBC projects.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

The applicant was not present.

Chair Gordon commented that it would have been nice to have a representative of the VBC here to receive their feedback.

**B. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SITE FOR SCULPTURE AREA:** The Committee has had discussion of the concept of creating a sculpture garden or other area for display of community artworks; this agenda discussion is focused on identification of an appropriate site.

Per their previous discussion, Chair Gordon commented that the Committee was generally in favor of a specific area being set aside for public art.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

The Committee discussed sites.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- The slope on Morris Street, near the City's corporation yard, is the very best site despite the lack of sidewalk.
- There is a City-owned strip near the Art Center, to the north near the creek, which would be a great place for a sculpture garden.
- Along Pleasant Hill Avenue North, at Willard Libby Park, would be a good site.

Chair Gordon commented that they could start with one site and open it up to additional sites in the future.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen agreed on starting with one site and commented that having too many sites would return to what we currently have, which is scattershot in a way.

Chair Gordon asked if the goal was for the Committee to be the funnel for which these types of projects would go through and that the Committee would suggest, encourage, or demand that they be placed in the specified location.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that her understanding was that future Sculpture Jam and similar type projects would have to go through the Committee and that the Committee would dictate where the project could be placed.

Chair Gordon commented that they would not want to preclude City-commissioned projects from being placed in these locations either.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen agreed.

Chair Gordon reiterated that the intent was to funnel unsolicited projects into one identified priority area.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen agreed.

The Committee agreed that the slope on Morris Street, near the City's corporation yard, is the preferred location for such projects.

Committee Member Arnold asked to clarify that this location was for people who come to the Committee with a proposal, and not for Sculpture Jam or something we're going to acquire for the City.

Chair Gordon and Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked why Committee Member Arnold was averse to having Sculpture Jam projects placed in this location.

Committee Member Arnold responded that in some cases Sculpture Jam creates site specific work.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that the Committee could grant an exception for placement elsewhere, when appropriate.

Committee Member Persinger commented:

- Supports providing the amenity.
- Likes the idea of art being spread throughout the community, even if unprofessional, and felt that that was part of what makes Sebastopol so cool.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that the Committee be open to all art and back off of this idea.

Committee Member Vertz commented that she does not like the idea of requiring all unsolicited art to be in one place.

Director Webster commented that the Committee could recommend creation of a sculpture garden area to the City Council. The Committee could then use that location as a place to recommend that pieces be placed, as appropriate. Alternatively, the Council could require that pieces be placed there.

Director Webster stated that specifying a preferred location will help to give it some weight as an option when projects come through for review.

Chair Gordon commented that the wording wouldn't preclude people from choosing other locations.

Director Webster responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that that was reasonable.

Chair Gordon commented that, based on their discussion, the Committee was going to recommend creation of a sculpture garden area and that they would strongly encourage that artworks be presented to the Committee before going to the Council.

The Committee agreed.

Chair Gordon asked for a motion on recommending that a sculpture garden area be created.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to recommend that a sculpture garden area be created at the slope on Morris Street, near the City's corporation yard. Creation of this sculpture garden area would not preclude artworks from being placed elsewhere in the city.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that the sculpture garden area would be for, but not limited to, non-commissioned City artwork.

Chair Gordon commented that it would be for commissioned and non-commissioned artwork.

Committee Member Vertz seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Ayes:	Chair Gordon, and Committee Members Arnold, Vertz, Persinger and Mills-Thysen
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None

Chair Gordon asked for a motion to extend the Committee's advisory role to include review of all art projects.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion asking for a policy directive from the City Council to extend the Committee's advisory role to include review of all art projects.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Ayes:	Chair Gordon, and Committee Members Arnold, Vertz and Mills-Thysen
	Noes:	Committee Member Persinger
	Abstain:	None

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked for clarification and implementation of the time limit for temporary artworks.

Director Webster responded that there has been discussion about the need for a system to do that.

Committee Member Persinger excused himself from the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

**C. DISCUSSION OF REVIEW PROCESS FOR RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ART PROJECT:** A Request for Qualifications for a public art project has been issued. A general update on this project will be provided.

Director Webster provided a brief update.

The Committee asked questions of staff.

The Committee discussed potentially extending the deadline for submittals to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee agreed that names of artists did not need to be omitted from review materials.

The Committee agreed that there was no need for creation of a two-member subcommittee, or for staff review.

As for rating or review criteria; previous work, familiarity with Sebastopol and its surrounding areas, references and team dynamics were some suggestions.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE/STAFF:** There were none.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:50 a.m. to the next regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held May 04, 2016 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster  
Planning Director