

that the public did not really like that idea, to continue looking at a pedestrian activated flashing light type of improvement at the intersection with the long-term probable improvement of installing a traffic signal there. Noted that traffic signals can carry a price tag of \$500,000.

- The next City Council meeting will include review of Planning Commission recommendations on interim improvements for Ives Park. There is an Ives Park Master Plan, however, the cost to implement everything in it is somewhere around \$5,000,000.
- The Sebastopol Center for the Arts has a new Executive Director as well as a new Film Program Director.

The Committee asked questions of Director Webster.

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

Jann Eyrich, a Sebastopol resident and business owner, commented:

- Works primarily with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts and as an independent consultant.
- Loves Sebastopol.
- In the course of working with a variety of organizations, she is loosely affiliated with the developers of Hotel Sebastopol.
- Read a statement from Piazza Hospitality Group regarding removal of some of the artwork around the perimeter fence by a street artist named Roland.
 - Noted public safety as their consideration in removing the artwork that they did.
 - The two panels at the corner will remain.
 - The street art will be archived and linked to via the hotel's website.
 - Piazza Hospitality Group invites Committee feedback on this matter.
- Thanked the Committee for their time.

The Committee asked questions of Ms. Eyrich.

Chair Gordon commended Piazza Hospitality and commented that it is very kind and generous of them to post a link to the artwork on the hotel's site.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commended Ms. Eyrich for bringing this information to the Committee.

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 ON NED KAHN PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:** Staff will provide an update on the City's application to Caltrans.

Director Webster provided a brief update on the City's application to Caltrans regarding the Ned Kahn artwork and was available for questions.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Director Webster throughout their discussion.

Chair Gordon commented that it may be worth reaching out to Arrowhead regarding the reflective material they use on their trucks.

Director Webster responded that that was a good idea.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen suggested a number of people and businesses that it may be good to reach out to in an attempt to garner more letters of support for.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that Caltrans be asked about the use of translucent polycarbonate, which is somewhat reflective, versus the more reflective polished aluminum.

Chair Gordon commented that this is a process where Caltrans needs to ensure that their liability is covered in every way.

Director Webster responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Deedler asked about discussing the design and expressed having some concerns.

Director Webster explained the process that had led up to this point and commented to the extent that it changes in a meaningful way, the design would return to the Committee and Council eventually.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Read from the minutes from the previous Public Arts Committee meeting.
 - The concept of two pieces was discussed at that meeting.
 - The Committee authorized Mr. Kahn to continue the design process.
- Appreciates that Committee Member Deedler is seeking more information.
- Continuing these discussions impedes the Committee's ability to move forward.
- Wants the Committee to move forward.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- The Committee recommended a single piece on the southeast side of the bridge.
- Two smaller columns will dilute what could have been a spectacular single column.
- This project is important for our town and will be very visible.
- Two slightly different columns reminds him of someone who cannot make up their mind, feels oddball and brings the entire project down a notch.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the Committee needs to move on because the Council has already acted on this and it is now in the hands of Caltrans.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Expressed being in agreement with the comments made by Committee Member Deedler.
- In a way, this whole process has diluted the meaning and work of the Public Arts Committee.
- If we would have known from the beginning that we were going to do sculptures or columns at the bridge, our call would have gotten completely different results.
- The Committee's focus should be on doing better next time.

Chair Gordon commented:

- The essence of the problem is with the Committee having chosen a project and artist without a site having been secured.
- Because the artwork is ever-changing, all the Committee really did was choose the artist.
 - While there is precedent for doing that, that is not what the Committee set out to do.
- We're in a place where a lot of accommodations are having to be made due to things that are beyond our control.
- While we'd want to rectify that for the future, it is not helpful to minimize where we detoured from our role and from our goals.
- The Public Arts Committee is just listening to what is happening and there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction because of it.
- While we probably cannot change anything about where we're at, we should not minimize the issues.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Agrees on this serving as a learning experience for the future.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Due to our changing the rules ipso facto, we should have provided every artist the same opportunity that Mr. Kahn was provided.
- There are options to consider here.
- It is important to understand the magnitude of the change that has occurred.
- As an artist for almost 35 years, he has never heard of a public art process going down the way this one has.
- As an advisory Committee, our power is limited.
- This process calls into question the integrity of the Public Arts Committee.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Thanked Chair Gordon for his comments.
 - His comments were well stated.
 - Appreciates what he said.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- The design has not been finalized and nothing has been built, this is not water under the bridge.
- Would like the Committee to make a strong and specific recommendation to the Council.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Understands that the Committee has supported moving things forward with Caltrans and expressed being fine with staying that path.
- Just as an idea, the Committee could recommend that Mr. Kahn's artwork be placed on the site identified as being near the Blincoe trail arbor by the South entrance to the Community Center parking lot, as suggested by Committee Member Arnold.
- The Committee could being their next project by calling for proposals on the bridge platforms.
- Artwork at a primary entry to our town should be done right.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that continuing to go back and forth about this will only further dilute things.

Committee Member Vertz concurred.

Chair Gordon asked Director Webster to speak on how the Council may perceive the Committee moving forward with a request for proposals for the bridge platforms which would essentially sideline Mr. Kahn's piece.

Director Webster responded:

- That would be pretty disruptive to the course we have set.
- The majority of the Council did generally support Mr. Kahn's artwork in the currently proposed location.
- The Committee could wait and see what happens with Caltrans.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Biggest concern is with the role of the Committee.
- Wants to be on a Committee that is picking the artwork, not the artist.
- Likes Mr. Kahn and his artwork.
- Primary concern is with process.

Chair Gordon commented:

- The Committee's role is to choose artwork that an artist brings forward.
- While the Committee can visualize generalities, the Committee's role is not to design these artworks.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen noted Committee Member Deedler's concerns with the artwork visually, not procedurally.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- Would like to see one strong, dynamic feature.
- Mr. Kahn's work is good.
- Would like to send a very specific recommendation asking for one dynamic artwork back to the City Council for their consideration.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Would also like to see one artwork, however, that would almost seem negate the second pedestal.
- If two pieces of art please Caltrans, he would be okay with it.
- We haven't picked the artist, we've picked the artist's background.
- Mr. Kahn is bending over backwards to give us something wonderful and has been very gracious about the whole thing.
- Picking a specific site for future public art opportunities will help the process as we move forward.
- We will have come through this process having learned a lot.
 - The Committee's thinking and mission will be altered because of it.
- Mr. Kahn's artwork is in the hands of Mr. Kahn and Caltrans at this point.

Chair Gordon asked if anyone wished to make a motion for recommendations to the City Council regarding their discussion surrounding Mr. Kahn's artwork.

Committee Member Deedler made a motion to send a memo to the City Council stating that we feel strongly that a single-tower on the Sebastopol side of the Highway 12 Bridge will look better than any other proposal that has been suggested.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked for discussion of the motion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Discouraged throwing a wrench in the process.
- Did not believe that making a recommendation like this would be a good thing for the Committee to do at this stage.
- Suggested that the Committee wait and see what happens.

Chair Gordon expressed being fine with the motion as it is simply a recommendation to the City Council.

Chair Gordon asked for a second on the motion as stated by Committee Member Deedler.

With no second, the motion failed and the Committee concluded their discussion.

Committee Member Arnold asked Director Webster, on behalf of Beth Hartman, if Sculpture Jam artwork would need to come before the Public Arts Committee.

Director Webster commented that those artworks would be subject to review and suggested that Committee Member Arnold have Ms. Hartman contact him to discuss the process.

Committee Member Arnold responded in the affirmative.

- B. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PUBLIC ART PROJECT:** The Committee will discuss concepts for the next public art project, including such elements as potential sites, medium, and general objectives.

The Committee asked a variety of questions throughout their discussion of this item.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Suggested placement of a mural on the Bodega Avenue side of the Sebastopol Regional Library.
- If not currently identified as a place for Mr. Kahn's artwork, she would have suggested the pedestals on the Highway 12 Bridge.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Concurred with Committee Member Vertz's suggestion regarding the Bodega Avenue side of the Sebastopol Regional Library and asked staff if any coordination with the library would need to occur.

Director Webster responded:

- The City has a cooperative relationship with the library.
- The library has expressed an openness to such things in the past.
- Could certainly approach the library about it if that was something that the Committee was really interested in.

Committee Member Vertz commented that there are a number of opportunities on private property buildings.

Chair Gordon concurred with Committee Member Vertz and cited the CVS building as a centrally located opportunity for something.

Chair Gordon commented:

- The Committee needs to expand in terms of the types of mediums they are open to considering for public art pieces.
 - Some examples include, light and kinetic pieces.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Reiterated her support for the library idea.
- Would be interested in placing art in our parks, specifically Ives Park.
- The hill along Morris, immediately across the street from the Community Center, is a great opportunity for something wonderful.
- Does not support placement on private property for many reasons.
- The Phoenix Airport has mosaics all over and they are really interesting.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Mosaics are a very permanent material as well.
- The mosaics at the Phoenix Airport, as described by Committee Member Mills-Thysen, sound fascinating.
- Mosaics could be integrated with existing structures as well.
- The site identified as being near the Blincoe trail arbor by the South entrance to the Community Center parking lot, as suggested by Committee Member Arnold, is an interesting opportunity for something forest-themed.
- The town is changing, people like to walk around and explore.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Wants a central, walkable place.
- Could turn a fairly central place into an easily accessible place to hang out.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Suggested that each member of the Committee come up with two sites and bring them to the next meeting to be voted on to see which ones rise to the top.
- Interested in art placement in one of the traffic islands where Covert Lane comes off of Highway 116 at the north entrance to our town.
- It is nice to walk but we're also a mobile community.
- Suggested that the fountain at the library be converted into a sculpture pad.
 - The library is a highly used site and the artwork would be visible to people coming into town from the west.

Chair Gordon commented that the fountain could be integrated with something else.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Water can be a maintenance nightmare which he would rather not get involved with.
- That could work, however, the best way that water can work is in tremendous volume.
- Limiting himself to two suggestions, however, he likes the area where he suggested that Mr. Kahn's piece go as well.

The Committee agreed to each member bringing their suggestions to the next meeting. No limit was set on the number of suggestions to bring forward.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- Could come up with a very long list.
- Any artwork in town should not just be pretty, it should have purpose and should tie-in with the community in some way.
- Identified the entry to the Joe Rodota trail as something that should be enhanced.
- The Skatepark is very important to the community and should have a skateboard-related entry feature.
- The children's play area at Ives Park would benefit from sculptures of children, children playing, or children and adults being together.
- Our town has a significant railroad heritage which he would like to see reflected somehow.

Chair Gordon commented that Committee Member Deedler's comments were really helpful.

The Committee concurred and commented that many great ideas had been expressed.

In response to a question, Director Webster responded that the art fund has about \$90,000 in it. All of which could be put towards a project, or projects.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Suggested that Committee members consider sites and mediums for the next public art project, or projects.
- Likes the Joe Rodota trail idea as suggested by Committee Member Deedler and expressed being interested in the other end of the trail as well.

Director Webster spoke on the Joe Rodota trail and commented that various entities own portions of it.

Committee members requested that site consideration for the next public art project as well as an update on the Kahn piece be agendaized for their next meeting.

Committee Member Arnold asked about agendaizing continued discussion of the call for art template that the Committee had been working on. He noted that he had revisions to make to it as well.

Committee members concurred that the call for art template had already been agreed upon as a starting point with specific modifications to come once project specifics have been identified.

Committee Member Deedler commented that while he would like to be in on the siting discussion, he would not be able to attend the regular Committee meeting in November.

The Committee requested that Committee Member Deedler email a list of his site recommendations for the Committee to consider during their November meeting.

Director Webster concurred and asked Committee Member Deedler to formulate his thoughts and recommendations in an email to him. The email would then be provided to the Committee prior to their next meeting.

Committee Member Deedler responded in the affirmative.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the sites that are identified should be City-owned land, unless owned by an entity that staff believes we can work with.

Chair Gordon commented that he did not have any site recommendations to offer at this time, however, he intended to provide some ideas to staff prior to the drafting of the staff report for the next Committee 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 11:51 a.m. to the regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held November 01, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster
Planning Director