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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
 CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 MINUTES OF July 05, 2017

SEBASTOPOL CITY HALL
 7120 BODEGA AVENUE
 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on June 29, 2017.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL: **Present:** Chair Gordon, and Committee Members Arnold, Deedler, Vertz and Mills-Thysen
 Absent: None
 Staff: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 07, 2017

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

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

4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST: There were none.

A Committee member asked a question of Director Webster.

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

Natalie Timm, a resident of Sebastopol, commented:

- Here to receive an update on the Ned Kahn sculpture as she had not heard anything about it lately.
- Expressed being a fan of Mr. Kahn's work.

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 NED KAHN PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE: Artist Ned Kahn's proposal was selected by the City Council for the City's first commissioned art work, however, a site selection was deferred. Mr. Kahn will provide updated information on a proposed site in the Barlow development, and information about the refined project design. The Committee is expected to formulate recommendations to the City Council regarding the project.

Mr. Kahn gave a presentation.

Comments from Mr. Kahn included:

- The latest most viable site is in the Barlow development, at the corner, near Village Bakery.
- Property owner, Barney Aldridge, supports and is excited about placement of his sculpture in that location.
- The site is completely viable in terms of there being no underground utility issues.
- In its current condition, the site has nice trees and a grassy square. In response to prior feedback from some members of the Committee, Mr. Aldridge has expressed being willing to add additional plantings.
- Mr. Aldridge has expressed that he may be open to the idea of paying for lighting for the artwork as well.
- Personally, he believed this to be a great site and commented that the artwork would be visible from many places. In addition, he commented that the artwork would be accessible and located in a very active area.
- A lot of the other sites that were considered were not very accessible.

The Committee asked questions of Mr. Kahn and Director Webster.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Appreciates Mr. Kahn's ongoing process, however, he expressed being at a total loss with regards to how the City could be moving forward with this project given its constant evolution.
- Questioned the Committee's role and expressed frustration with a process that has been completely unprecedented.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- During the previous meeting, Chair Gordon indicated that he liked the redesigned sculpture 100% more than the initial design.
- Would like to move on.

Chair Gordon responded:

- Does not recall having said that.
- Said that he could go along with the concept if it was basically the same as the original concept, with a new structure.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Read the minutes from the prior meeting last night.
- All of the members that were present at the last meeting expressed support for the redesigned sculpture as presented by Mr. Kahn.
- The City Council has expressed a strong desire to have this artwork located at an entrance to the city.
- A couple of alternative sites have come to mind. One being the Caltrans pad on the southeast side of the new Highway 12 bridge, which he showed a picture of. The other being a location within Tomodachi Park, which he showed a picture of as well.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- Would love for his artwork to be placed at the Highway 12 bridge, however, Caltrans has been very uncooperative.
- The location within Tomodachi Park was explored as well but ultimately didn't pan out due to issues with the Open Space District.
- Shared the Committee's frustration over siting.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Like Committee Member Arnold, she would prefer a more central location.
- The choice spot for her would be where the 'Peace Wall' is. If the 'Peace Wall' cannot be moved, perhaps Mr. Kahn's artwork could be placed near the 'Peace Wall'.
- As the artist, Mr. Kahn's preferred location for siting is important to consider.

Committee Member Vertz commented:

- Feels strange about the artwork being placed on private property at the Barlow because that was not what the RFP called for.
- Expressed concern over setting a precedent with regards to placement on private property.
- Liked Committee Member Arnold's prior suggestion of placing it on the site south of the Community Center by the trail.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Spoke on his prior suggestion, as mentioned by Committee Member Vertz, and commented that Mr. Kahn had expressed not being in favor of that location.

Committee Member Arnold asked what would happen regarding ownership and liability if the artwork were to be placed at the Barlow.

Mr. Kahn indicated that Mr. Aldridge is flexible on those matters.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- Tends to yield to Mr. Kahn's opinion.
- Expressed having some minor problems with siting the artwork at the Barlow.
- The stainless steel look of the artwork may get lost a bit amongst the shiny, aluminum buildings of the Barlow. The similar look does not allow the artwork to stand out in a way that is warranted.
- This artwork warrants a location with an excellent setting
- Committee Member Arnold's suggested location by the trail off of Morris Street would provide a nice green backdrop.

- Expressed being torn on siting.
- With regards to Caltrans, he suggested going up the chain of command.

Chair Gordon commented:

- With regards to going up the chain of command at Caltrans, he commented that someone cannot fight genuine concerns over safety.

Board Member Deedler commented:

- The letter from Caltrans sounds like a great overreaction.

Mr. Kahn commented:

- Has worked with Caltrans on a number of projects. Every single time the process has been very difficult. The process is long but can be done.
- Dozens of his installations, positioned close to highways and made of reflective surfaces, have a track record of having zero incidents and they have been in place for decades.
- Has presented evidence to support those facts to Caltrans and they have chosen to ignore it.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Based on the information he heard from Mr. Kahn he deduced that, arduous process aside, there is a pathway to get this done if enough people can be convinced.
- If we could move this process forward with the bridge as the location, perhaps Mr. Kahn could do two smaller scale sculptures, one on each pad on either side of the bridge.

Mr. Kahn commented that he could look into doing that.

The Committee asked additional questions of Director Webster and Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Arnold suggested that the artwork be placed in a location, using the site along Morris Street that he had previously suggested as an example, with the intention of potentially moving it at a later date, pending discussions with Caltrans as they may take some time.

Mr. Kahn and Director Webster commented that that placing it with the intention of moving it at a later date could work.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if there was interest and/or feasibility in placing the artwork on the site where the 'Peace Wall' is located.

Director Webster commented that the 'Peace Wall' is a fixture at the site, one that he did not see being relocated. He added that he could see issues with doing so, but wouldn't rule out the possibility of placing Mr. Kahn's elsewhere on the same site as there is room for something else to be placed there.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked Mr. Kahn if he would be willing to consider that site.

Mr. Kahn responded that he would be open to that as well.

The Committee asked procedural questions of Director Webster.

Chair Gordon asked Mr. Kahn to rank the three sites that have been up for discussion during this meeting.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked which sites Chair Gordon was referring to.

Chair Gordon responded that he was referring to the site along Morris as suggested by Committee Member Arnold, the site at the Barlow, and the Caltrans site.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that she'd like the 'Peace Wall' site added to that list as well.

Chair Gordon asked to hear from Mr. Kahn on which of the four sites mentioned he was most comfortable with, most excited about, and which would be worth the effort.

Mr. Kahn responded:

- The Barlow site is his first choice because there is a clear path forward. In addition, he preferred the site because it is a people place, it would be visible from a number of locations, the site already has access to power and lighting would be doable, and the artwork would complement the surrounding area nicely.
- The site along Morris as suggested by Committee Member Arnold would probably be his second choice. The site is too much of an 'in between' type of site and he felt that it did not have the right energy. There is a lot to like about the site, but it just did not feel right to him.
- Really liked a site behind the Youth Annex, but that did not garner support from the Council.
- Mr. Kahn and Director Webster had also hoped that a commercial site at the intersection of Sebastopol Avenue and Petaluma Avenue would have worked out, but, after some discussion, the property owner was not amendable to it.
- Mr. Kahn and Director Webster had also gotten excited about a location near the Highway 12 bridge, but there was a PG&E pole right in front of it so it wouldn't have worked out without cooperation from PG&E.
- There is too much going on at the Plaza to put it there.
- Given plans to have an artwork incorporated into the Hotel Sebastopol project upon construction, he had considered asking the developer about incorporating this piece into that project as well, as they are two totally different pieces, but the issue with it being on private property would remain.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Would really like to see if the City can proceed with Caltrans for placement on the pad at the Highway 12 bridge.
- Reiterated his suggestion to place the artwork someplace else for the time being, with the goal of placing it at the Highway 12 bridge, if Caltrans will cooperate.
- Mr. Kahn has managed to gain Caltrans approval every time he's asked before, eventually. Would bet on him being able to get it again.
- For all of Mr. Kahn's effort, placement at the bridge would highlight the city at this entrance so nicely.
- Placement at the bridge would be consistent with what the City Council has said that they want.

Mr. Kahn responded that he would be fine with placement at the bridge as that is near where he initially proposed it to be.

Chair Gordon asked Mr. Kahn if he'd be willing to explore the possibility of placement at the Hotel Sebastopol site.

Mr. Kahn responded that he would be open to that, and noted that the developers would be too.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- The Committee hasn't yet had an opportunity to comment on the proposed piece at Hotel Sebastopol.
- The trouble with placement at Hotel Sebastopol is that, like the Barlow, it would be placed on private property.

Chair Gordon asked for a straw poll on which members support placement on private, rather than public, property.

- Chair Gordon expressed being supportive of placement on private property.
- Committee Member Arnold expressed being opposed.
- Committee Member Mills-Thysen expressed being supportive with the right parameters.
- Committee Member Vertz expressed being supportive of that. She added that the more she listens to Mr. Kahn, the more she supports placement at the Barlow and, would support immediate placement at the Barlow with exploration of future placement at the Highway 12 bridge.
- Committee Member Deedler commented that he would want to at least take preliminary steps towards placement at the Highway 12 bridge before supporting placement on private property. If the bridge is not an option, placement at the Barlow would be his second choice. Expressed being more concerned over finding the best location rather than whether it would be on public versus private property.

The Committee asked additional questions of Director Webster and Mr. Kahn.

Member of the public, Ms. Timm, asked if she could make a comment.

Chair Gordon asked to hear from Ms. Timm.

Ms. Timm commented:

- Believes that the Barlow is for sale.
- The Barlow hasn't been as successful as some of the investors would like.
- Placement at the Barlow could be contingent on approval by a new person or company eventually.

Mr. Kahn responded that Mr. Aldridge is willing to provide a City easement if the piece is placed at the Barlow.

Chair Gordon discussed process.

Committee Member Arnold commented that his first choice for the Committee's recommendation to the Council would be for placement, of the piece as presented today, at the Caltrans pedestal on the southeast corner of the Highway 12 bridge. He stated that he'd be willing to make that a motion.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked clarifying questions of Committee Member Arnold.

Committee Member Arnold asked questions of Mr. Kahn.

Committee Member Arnold commented that he'd also like to make a motion to select a temporary site if the Committee can agree on one. In addition he'd like to make a motion to set aside a little money to cover the costs of potentially moving the artwork so that Mr. Kahn does not have to cover that cost out of his own pocket.

Chair Gordon commented that the Committee needs to vote on each individual site that was discussed.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion as stated by Committee Member Arnold to recommend placement at the Caltrans pedestal on the southeast corner of the Highway 12 bridge.

The Committee voted as follows:

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

Chair Gordon asked which members would like to recommend making the Barlow site the second in line for placement.

The Committee voted as follows:

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

Chair Gordon asked which members would like to recommend making the site along Morris, as suggested by Committee Member Arnold, the site second in line for placement.

The Committee voted as follows:

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

Chair Gordon asked which members would like to recommend making the area near the 'Peace Wall' the number one site for placement.

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

Chair Gordon asked which members would like to recommend making the plaza area of the Hotel Sebastopol project as the number one site for placement.

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

Based on the votes, the Barlow was selected as the site second in line for placement.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to allocate an additional \$1,500.00 to this project for moving the artwork, if necessary.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Kahn commented that, following this process, he would reach out to Caltrans again.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked a procedural question of Director Webster.

The Committee asked additional questions of Mr. Kahn and Director Webster.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen proposed that the Committee accept the current design and move forward.

Chair Gordon asked Mr. Kahn if he was comfortable with that given that the design may need to change.

Mr. Kahn responded that he would wait on that.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if there was support from the Committee to accept the redesign and its continuing evolution in order to not have to continue returning to the discussion of the matter.

Chair Gordon commented that a redesign will likely return to the Committee for comments at a later date.

Director Webster concurred and commented that anything but minor changes should return to the Committee for their feedback before ultimately going to the Council.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if the Committee supports Mr. Kahn going to Caltrans with the current design as a starting point and commented that she would like him to have leeway to continue the design process.

Chair Gordon commented that the Committee would be giving Mr. Kahn authorization to continue the design process.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen agreed.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to give Mr. Kahn authorization to continue the design process.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion.

Committee Member Deedler commented:

- It is pretty hard to have this kind of vague support.
- Mr. Kahn offered to give a tour of his facility, including a look at the prototype, which he would like to do.

Mr. Kahn reiterated his willingness to welcome members to his facility. Would also like to extend the invitation to the people that he'll be working with at Caltrans.

Chair Gordon asked Director Webster if the scenic open space restriction would apply to the Caltrans area.

Director Webster stated that he did not think so, but would check.

Hearing nothing further, the Committee concluded their discussion of this matter.

The Committee voted on Committee Member Arnold's motion to give Mr. Kahn authorization to continue the design process, which was seconded by Committee Member Mills-Thysen, as follows:

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

The Committee asked additional questions of Mr. Kahn and Director Webster.

Chair Gordon suggested that an update be posted on the City's website to update members of the Committee who may be interested in the status of this project.

Director Webster commented that an article could be posted, if the City Council agrees with the Committee's direction.

B. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: The Committee has been developing a draft call for public art projects, and the most recent draft will be reviewed.

Chair Gordon suggested tabling this discussion until their next meeting. Due to it having been deferred, the he suggested that it be their first discussion item, if other items are expected on that agenda.

Committee Member Arnold made a motion to defer this matter as suggested by Chair Gordon.

Committee Member Vertz seconded the motion.

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 11:50 a.m. to the regular Public Arts Committee Meeting to be held August 02, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., at the City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kenyon Webster

Planning Director