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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
MINUTES OF November 07, 2018

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

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE:

The notice of the meeting was posted on November 01, 2018.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL: **Present:** Chair Gordon, Vice Chair Vertz, and Committee Members Arnold, Mills-Thysen, and Langberg
 Absent: None
 Staff: Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
 Rebecca Mansour, Planning Technician
 Dana Morrison, Assistant Planner

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 03, 2018

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

Committee Member Arnold seconded the motion.

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

4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Director Svanstrom provided the following updates:

- The City Council recently adopted the new Zoning Ordinance which goes into effect on November 15, 2018.
 - While there were no changes to the Public Arts section of the Ordinance, there were a number of other sections that did change.
- The Housing Fair that was held on Sunday, November 4, 2018 saw about 150 attendees. City staff, County staff, and other organizations were present to help residents who may be interested in accessory dwelling units, junior accessory

dwelling units, and other home-sharing opportunities to try to address the housing needs of our community.

- While the results are not yet certified, yesterday's election appears to have resulted in the reelection of the three incumbents to the City Council and in the two tax measures having passed.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- He attended the Housing Fair and found it to be very impressive.
- Everybody knows we have a major housing problem.
 - The Housing Fair allowed people to see that our local officials (City and County) are working towards finding solutions for the challenging issues we're facing.

Director Svanstrom continued her update as follows:

- The City is working with the County on HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program).
 - The County will receive about 12 million dollars in funding for this program.
 - The City is looking at what projects may make sense for Sebastopol.
 - The State requires that the funds are committed by July 2019 and spent by July 2020.
- Mr. Kahn is working with his engineer on the insurance issue.
 - Things are sounding hopeful.
 - Will keep the Committee apprised of any updates.
- There is a very complimentary article in Sonoma West Times & News on the public art projects that are happening in town all of which the Committee has been part of.
 - Thanked Committee members for their service.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom and Assistant Planner Morrison.

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

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

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: There were none.

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

- A. REVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS:** Finalists were selected at the September 05, 2018, Public Arts Committee meeting to proceed in the review process for a new public art project at the Sebastopol Public Library in Sebastopol. The finalists will make a presentation to the Public Arts Committee and the Committee will have the opportunity to ask questions of the finalists. There will be an opportunity for public comment. The Public Arts Committee will not make a selection recommendation at this meeting, but is expected to do so at their December 05, 2018 meeting. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council, who will make a final decision on the matter.

Chair Gordon announced that artist Nicole Ponsler had withdrawn herself from consideration.

Chair Gordon commented:

- Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the last meeting, but he did review the minutes.
- The Committee is here to listen to the presentations of the artists.

- At this point, what the artists have brought forward is what they're proposing.
- The Committee should receive the presentations and then make a recommendation to the City Council.
- We need to make clear that, as an advisory board to the City Council, the Committee's role is not to direct the design decisions to the artists.
- There is a line between input, collaboration, and influence.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded:

- Each person has their own sense about the line between input, collaboration, and influence.
- In looking back, her impression of the comments that have been made in response to various artworks is that comments have not been decisions, have sometimes been questions, and sometimes suggestions.
- Artists often say that they want to hear from the Committee, from the town, and that they want to work in some sort of collaborative way.
- When thinking about the art that has come before the Committee prior to what is before them today, the Committee's comments have sometimes led to slight changes and have sometimes led to larger changes for different reasons.

Chair Gordon responded:

- Concurred with Committee Member Mills-Thysen and stated that her comments were very perceptive.
- Expressed disappointment over a Committee Member asking Ms. Ponsler to change the style of her artwork from frenetic to calm, as he felt that comment was an overreach.
- Would love to have a retreat where the Committee can understand and define their role.
 - The Committee has run up against these issues before.
 - The Committee needs to know what their parameters are as far as input and recommendations, etc.
 - This Committee is a relatively new Committee.

Committee Members concurred with Chair Gordon's suggestion about having an opportunity outside of the public process to better understand and define their role on the Committee.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- During the prior meeting some proposals were more clear than others which provided a good opportunity for the Committee to give feedback.
- Today the artists have come back with very specific proposals for the Committee and public to consider.
- The Committee is expected to make a recommendation to the Council at their next meeting.
- There is a clear difference in the Committee's role for each meeting.

Committee Members concurred with Committee Member Langberg.

Director Svanstrom spoke on process, presented the staff report, and was available for questions.

The Committee asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

Michael McGinnis gave a presentation on his artwork titled "Gray Matter".

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McGinnis commented as follows:

- The wall is in pretty bad shape and should be painted before either artwork is installed.
 - Divisions in the plywood have become very obvious.
 - While the wall is not falling apart, it has sustained a lot of wear from being south facing.
 - A good paint job will seal the wall.
 - There are higher-quality paints that can withstand direct southern exposure.
 - In terms of paint type, he recommended a flatter paint.
 - The wall needs to be maintained.
- If the wall is repainted, the color should be similar to what is existing and should work well with the brick and the plants.
 - Reddish, earthy tones go well with green, they are very complimentary to each other.
 - Changing the color to something radically different wouldn't be appropriate.
- In the proposed location, the piece could be touched, hung from, and climbed on by a person.
 - While people could climb it, in his experience people wouldn't.
 - There are barriers that make it less accessible to the public.
 - Additional landscape could make it feel even less accessible.
 - If it's a matter of public safety, as long as it is centered on the wall, he felt it could be placed higher up on the wall and still have a nice frame to it.
 - The piece is extremely strong as a structure and can easily support the weight of a person.
 - Some flexibility is built into the artwork.
- The piece is hand sanded and will have no sharp edges, but wouldn't be easy to hang on.
- The piece is bolted in a way that is meant to be detached, if necessary, because the wall is going to have to be maintained.
- If the Library building was replaced completely, the piece could be removed and easily fastened to another surface.
 - If the building were to be replaced the art should be a consideration as it goes with the building.
- The piece will be made of 18/8 stainless steel unless it's determined that a higher content is needed to withstand salt.
 - While he'd prefer to use bolts made of high strength stainless steel, the bolts may be made of some other type of hardened metal.
- The gauge will be 10 or 11 depending on how readily available the metal is.
- The surface finish is hand sanded along the grain which leaves a shimmering effect.
- The surface may need to be cleaned at times.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen requested that Mr. McGinnis bring a material sample to this evening's community meeting.

Mr. McGinnis responded in the affirmative.

Chair Gordon suggested that a material sample be on display at the Library as well.

Mr. McGinnis responded that he would do so as long as he could find a way to secure it.

Linda Serrao gave a presentation on her artwork titled "Magic Carpet Ride".

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Serrao commented the following:

- The child will be life-size.
 - The overall height of the piece will be about 5'.
- While the child and book will be constructed of bronze, the bar will probably be constructed of steel.
- The piece is site specific to the Library without being attached to it in any way.
- The piece can be easily moved and wouldn't interfere with maintenance of the building, etc.
- Bronze is really difficult to damage.
- There will be no sharp edges.
- Likes to see children interacting with her art.
- Would prefer to make her a girl, rather than gender neutral.
 - Having her hair fly out gives her more motion.
 - In her experience with public art, even with sculptures of children, there are more boys than girls.
 - Doesn't have to be a girl.
- The color of the bronze helps to assuage concerns regarding ethnicity.
- In terms of changing from a stone base to the bar, she expressed liking the idea of her artwork not being tethered to the ground as is now being proposed in response to Chair Gordon's prior comment.
- Bronze is always poured hollow, however, some of the features will be made solid.
- The child is welded to the book in three locations.
- Intends for the book to be fabricated, not cast.
 - Doing so would allow the book to be made fuller.
- Expects that the final product would weigh around 200 pounds.
- It seems like there is ample light in the area.
 - Doesn't see the need to add additional lighting at this time.
- Has a patina applied at the foundry for two reasons;
 - To achieve the desired color.
 - Gives protection to the artwork.
- Bronze has almost an eternal life compared to anything else.
- An anti-graffiti coating can be applied; however, she did not consider it necessary.
 - Between the patina and wax, the bronze is protected.
 - Graffiti doesn't seem to be a terrible problem with bronze.
- Maintenance would include hosing it down when needed and waxing it twice per year with car wax.
 - The waxing process is not technical.
 - Waxing is recommended, not required.
 - A lot of people don't wax their pieces and, while a little bit duller in appearance, they're fine.
- An anti-graffiti coating can be applied at any time, either prior to installation, or down the road.
 - The process is simple and inexpensive.
- Allowing a natural patina over a long period of time doesn't produce an attractive color.
 - It takes many, many decades before it starts to get a copper color.
- Expressed being open to the color of patina.

Chair Gordon requested that Ms. Serrao bring samples of possible patina colors to the community meeting this evening.

Ms. Serrao responded that she could bring pictures of samples to the meeting this evening.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Gordon thanked the artists for their presentations and expressed looking forward to the community meeting this evening.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Committee Member Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Mills-Thysen seconded the motion. Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 11:48 a.m. to the special Committee meeting to be held November 07, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 South High Street, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director