

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

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

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Update from Sculpture Garden Subcommittee

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Watched the video from the last Public Arts Committee meeting.
- Clarified that her original concept was to have a sculpture garden for people who are noncommissioned artists.
 - The sculpture garden would provide a place for these noncommissioned artists to display their sculptures.
 - Sebastopol has many sculptures from noncommissioned artists in various locations throughout town.
 - It would be nice to provide a context and place where those artworks could be appreciated.
- Discussed locations include the sloped landscape area along Morris Street (across from the Community Center) and the landscape strip at Ives Park near the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.
- Committee discussions of the two locations brought about the thought of having two sculpture gardens, one for professional art, and one for noncommissioned art.
 - Would like to hear from other members about having this kind of arrangement.
- Expressed concern about setting up a two-class system, especially if the two sculpture gardens are right next to each other in the landscape strip at Ives Park.

Committee Member Arnold added:

- Expressed being conflict as well.
- Asked Director Svanstrom if she had reached out to the County of Sonoma regarding the landscape strip.

Director Svanstrom responded:

- Has a message in to the County.
- Spoke with the Executive Director of the Sebastopol Center for the Arts who expressed interest in partnering on the sculpture garden project.

Committee Member Arnold continued:

- Likes Committee Member Mills-Thysen's idea about having a sculpture garden near the creek and down the slope.
- Spoke on his concern about the visibility of the sculpture garden, depending on placement, due to vehicular parking and traffic.
- Favors areas along the Joe Rodota Trail (between 116 and the Hwy 12 bridge) or the area along Morris Street for placement of artwork created through Sculpture Jam, Art Trails, etc.

Chair Vertz asked Director Svanstrom about property ownership.

Director Svanstrom responded that the Joe Rodota Trail is a Regional Park and is not owned by the City, however, the City does own the portion known as the Railroad Forest.

Committee Member Arnold discussed the Railroad Forest area as a potential site for public art.

Director Svanstrom responded that it may be a good idea to have the group visit this, or other potential sites they may be considering.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Asked Committee Member Arnold if his suggested location along the Joe Rodota Trail was intended for the sculpture garden idea, or something else.
- Reiterated her intent to create a sculpture garden for noncommissioned art, which would include artwork created through Sculpture Jam, SRJC, Art Trails, etc. that would be selected through a jury process by the Committee.
- The idea to have a sculpture garden that would involve the Sebastopol Center for the Arts is a separate idea.
- Would like their initial focus to be on the sculpture garden for noncommissioned artwork by the community.
- Location is important.
- Wants the location of the community sculpture garden to be very accessible.
- The locations the Committee has been discussing (landscape strip near the Sebastopol Center for the Arts and the sloped area along Morris Street) are very public and accessible.
- The area near the Joe Rodota Trail that Committee Member Arnold described seems a little out of the way for the sculpture garden although it may be a great site for a future project.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Doesn't see why the community sculpture garden can't be in the landscape strip at Ives Park.
- The Ives Park Master Plan includes the sculpture area and Ives Park needs to be improved.
- The sculpture garden at Ives would be a great addition.
- Did not share Committee Member Arnold's concerns about visibility due to vehicular parking and traffic.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Understands Committee Member Mills-Thysen's concern about setting up a two-class system with the sculpture gardens being together but separate if in the landscape area at Ives Park.
- Loves the Ives Park location.
- Does not share Committee Member Arnold's concerns about visibility due to vehicular parking and traffic.

Based on Committee comments, Director Svanstrom commented that the division between the sculpture gardens is not needed and suggested that there be one garden.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Committee Member Arnold commented that Committee Member Mills-Thysen's concept is to have a place for nonprofessional artwork.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen concurred and commented that her concept was to include artworks from Sculpture Jam, SRJC, etc.

Committee Member Arnold responded that doing so would include professional artists.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- She would consider it a place for noncommissioned artwork.
- Her impression of the sculpture garden that could be done in conjunction with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts would be more limited.
- Agrees on focusing on the community sculpture garden initially.
- Wants some clarity and understanding, particularly if the community sculpture garden is to be at Ives Park, about what the Committee anticipates in terms of a second sculpture garden in collaboration with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- Would be best to have one sculpture garden.
- Property ownership doesn't seem like it'll be a big deal in the area at Ives Park.
- The Sebastopol Center for the Arts should be part of the sculpture garden in some way due to their proximity to it (if at Ives).
- Whether the sculpture garden houses commissioned, or noncommissioned artwork is a logistical thing that can be worked out.
- The quality of these artworks can be regulated through a process.
- The structure of the site needs to be addressed.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented that the land is owned by two different entities.

Director Svanstrom responded that that doesn't necessarily matter and shouldn't be a factor when envisioning the sculpture garden.

Chair Vertz commented:

- We need to approach the Sebastopol Center for the Arts once we have a clear vision of what we want, and what we'd be asking of them.
- It is important that the Sebastopol Center for the Arts is involved.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- In past conversations about this he said he would approach the Sebastopol Center for the Arts with the idea of having a juried show where people would have a year to put their work up and every applicant would have to pay a fee to be entered for consideration.
- Has postponed doing so until the Committee reaches a consensus.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The sculpture garden area may be able to be used in different ways at different times.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen reiterated her concern over having a two-class system.

Committee Member Langberg suggested that the two types of artwork can coexist.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Suggested having one sculpture garden with rotating shows and each show could showcase different levels of artwork.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The Committee should think about how it would decide what types of art and skillset of the artist would fall under the different levels or divisions.

Chair Vertz suggested that Committee Member Mills-Thysen come up with a proposal of what she would envision that looking like.

Director Svanstrom commented that one garden would probably be logistically and conceptually easier and discussed potential options when it comes to deciding the makeup of the artwork that may be placed in the sculpture garden.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Hasn't heard of a sculpture show like the one the Committee is envisioning so it may be that we'd be creating the model for others to follow.
- Would really like to see topnotch sculpture.
- Committee Member Mills-Thysen has always wanted a place for locals to display their art.
- We're talking about two different things.
- Would consider a sculpture student in his last year of college as pretty well qualified and semiprofessional.
- Interested in rotating art pieces on an annual basis to give the artwork adequate exposure.

Chair Vertz commented that Committee Member Arnold and Committee Member Mills-Thysen are talking about two different concepts.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Committee Member Arnold is describing a collaboration with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts to display topnotch sculpture.
- She is interested in creating a sculpture garden that could house the various noncommissioned artwork that are interspersed around town.
- Perhaps the two ideas should be considered and discussed separately.
- The two projects could be divided up by space, or by schedule, or the Committee could choose to proceed with one over the other.

Director Svanstrom suggested that Committee members discuss their preference when it comes to dividing the two projects by space, by schedule or by choosing to move forward with one of the projects over the other at this time.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The location (landscape strip at Ives Park) is prime for sculpture and it makes sense to involve the Sebastopol Center for the Arts due to the location of it.
- Believes the area can be used for both types of art either by dividing the space or by using a rotating schedule.
- It may depend on how many sculptures can fit in the space.
- Wouldn't mind dividing the space to accommodate both types of art.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked if combining the two different levels of art was a concern to him.

Committee Member Langberg responded that doing so would not concern him.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Wouldn't be concerned about combining the two different levels of art either.
- Loves the idea of having a beautiful array of wonderful sculpture near the Sebastopol Center for the Arts as that would seem to belong there.
- Understands that Committee Member Mills-Thysen wants to corral the amateur artwork that can be found throughout Sebastopol and put it in one place.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded that yes, she wants to give the amateur artwork a designated space for context and recognition.

Director Svanstrom asked Committee Member Mills-Thysen if she would want to relocate all existing amateur artwork to the sculpture garden, if created.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded:

- The artwork could be moved.
- Understands that a lot of the existing amateur artwork was placed with a timeframe of 2 years.
- Upon expiration of that, the artworks are supposed to be moved anyway.
- Suggested that the artwork could then be placed in the sculpture garden, if the artist wished to do so.
- In the future, amateur artwork would be placed in the sculpture garden.
- Commissioned artwork is what would be placed in prominent locations throughout town.

Committee Member Langberg commented that the Committee has a process for commissioned artwork that seems to be working as is.

Members of the Committee concurred.

Director Svanstrom asked if members of the Committee would like to see permanent or rotating art in the sculpture garden.

Committee Member Langberg responded:

- Likes the idea of having rotating sculpture in the sculpture garden.
- Anything in the sculpture garden area should be new.
- Doesn't understand why the existing artwork would be relocated to the sculpture garden area.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded that they are supposed to be moved or removed upon expiration of the two-year timeframe regardless.

Committee Member Arnold responded that nobody moves the artwork after the stated timeframe.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- The location is good.
- Would like to see different shows at different times for periods of six months to a year.
- Uncomfortable with have both tiers of sculpture on display at the same time.

Chair Vertz commented:

- Spoke on her experience working in an art gallery for many years.
 - They held shows on a regular basis.
 - They often held group shows where all levels of art were invited.

- This would result in professional artwork and amateur artwork being amongst each other.
- The shows were fantastic.
- The shows involved paintings, not sculpture.
- This lended itself to a great level of diversity, professionalism and skill.
- The shows did not create separation between the various levels of skill.

Committee Member Langberg commented:

- The invitation creates the show.
- Art is subjective.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- If something like that is done, it should be juried by the Public Arts Committee and a representative of the Sebastopol Center for the Arts should be on the jury as well.
- The jury should have an idea of the type of show they're wanting to create before making their selections.

Director Svanstrom commented:

- Over the course of three years, the Committee could have a show for sculpture by professionals, a show for sculpture by emerging artists (not professional), and a show with a mixture of both to see what works and what doesn't.

Chair Vertz expressed support for that concept.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Hearing a lot of different ideas and opinions.
- The Committee needs to come to consensus on the concept so it can start to think about the details such as collaboration, organization, advertisement, etc.
- Would like to rely, in a mutual way, on the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.
- Would like to establish what the starting costs might be.
- Will talk to the Sebastopol Center for the Arts once the idea is more flushed out.

Chair Vertz commented that the Sebastopol Center for the Arts may need to be contacted sooner than later if the plan is to heavily involve them.

Committee Member Langberg commented that additional planning (including foundation and pedestals) is required regardless of what kind of art will be placed there, etc.

Committee Member Arnold commented:

- Perhaps looking at use of the sloped landscape area along Morris Street for a community sculpture garden is the way to go as coordination with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts won't be required and it could serve as a place for amateur artwork.

Director Svanstrom commented that staff could return to the Committee with a draft resolution for their consideration. The resolution could include the following; Ives Park Sculpture Garden is the location, rotating sculpture on a yearly basis is desired, flexibility in terms of the type show (professional, emerging, or a mix) is also desired, as well as jury formation guidelines.

Chair Vertz commented that she would support having the subcommittee present a package idea to the Committee for their consideration.

Committee Member Arnold expressed support for create of a draft resolution as suggested by Director Svanstrom.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen commented:

- Agreed that the location had been whittled down.
- Noted that there are differing views on the other issues.
- Each Committee member could write down their idea since there are differences.
- The Sculpture Garden Subcommittee is comprised of Committee Member Arnold and her and while there is some overlap, they seem to have two different visions.
- Understands a new member of the Public Arts Committee will be appointed in January of next year.
- Wants to work with someone on this.

Chair Vertz commented that it may make sense to wait given the differing opinions within the Sculpture Garden Subcommittee.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen discussed her original vision for the sculpture garden and suggested that each member write down their vision and present to the Committee to see where members agree and where they differ.

Chair Vertz deduced that members of the Committee should return to the next meeting with answers to the following questions in terms of each members vision for the garden:

- Should this garden be rotating or permanent?
- She the artwork in the garden be amateur or professional?
- How it should be set in Ives Park.
- What role will the Sebastopol Center for the Arts play?
- What role will the Public Arts Committee play?

Committee Member Mills-Thysen responded in the affirmative and added:

- With regards to the roles, she would want the following address as well:
 - How decisions are made.
 - What kind of support would be involved?
 - Other entities could also be involved.
 - Funding.
 - Publicity in terms of outreach.

Committee Member Arnold commented that the Sebastopol Center for the Arts shouldn't be involved if the sculpture garden is to be placed on City-owned property.

Director Svanstrom spoke on process and commented that other items worth thinking about should include:

- The number of sculptures.
- Concrete pads (variations in size, etc.).
- These types of details will assist in identifying a budget for purposes of taking the recommendation to the City Council.

B. Update from Mobile Art App Subcommittee

Director Svanstrom commented that the proposal from Tasha Beauchamp was distributed to the Public Arts Committee.

At the request of Chair Vertz, Tasha Beauchamp of Cittaslow provided an overview of her proposal.

The Committee asked questions of Ms. Beauchamp and Director Svanstrom.

Comments from the Committee included:

- The Chamber of Commerce seems like an appropriate entity to talk to as their role is to promote the city.
- Sonoma Foundation is a source for potential grants.

Comments from Ms. Beauchamp included:

- While the Chamber is the Visitor Center for Sebastopol, it really is a membership organization that people will join so that they and their business will get individually promoted more than non-members.
- The Chamber of Commerce would not have money to contribute to a project like this because their individual members wouldn't get the benefit from it.
- The Chamber would be a good organization to work with on promoting (distributing a brochure or flyer) to its members, etc.
- Spoke on an annual grant opportunity that could be useful (while she wasn't sure, it may be called the Sonoma County Economic Development Grant).

Comments from Director Svanstrom included:

- The Sonoma County Economic Development Board would be an appropriate organization to reach out to and possibly work with.
- Can explore additional possible grant opportunities.
- Spoke on the budget process.

Hearing nothing further from Ms. Beauchamp, Chair Vertz spoke on Street Art Cities which is a free option (both through use of an app or by going online) that the Public Arts Committee could use for this purpose.

- Encouraged members to go online (<https://sebastopol-us.streetartcities.com/>) and check it out.
- While this service is free, they encourage and accept donations as well as promotion of their website and app.

The Committee agreed to check out the Street Art Cities website and app in order to determine whether further consideration of it is desired.

In response to a question from Ms. Beauchamp, Director Svanstrom and the Committee discussed potential timeline.

In response to a comment on budget, Director Svanstrom commented that she reserved \$5,000 in this year's budget for a potential public art project. She noted that the specifics would still need to go to Council for approval.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Discussion of potential future public art sites

The Committee deferred this item to a future meeting.

10. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Update on Future Agendas, Action of Other Boards and City Council)

- Spoke on upcoming vacancies and appointments to made to the Public Arts Committee.
- Formally introduced new Associate Planner, Alan Montes.
- The City’s Holiday Luncheon is on Thursday, December 12, 2020. If interested in attending, please RSVP to Rebecca Mansour in the Planning Department.

Committee Member Arnold suggested consideration of, as a priority, basic signage for each piece of art.

The Committee agreed to discuss that during their next meeting.

Ms. Beauchamp commented that a fun addition to that would be to include a phone number on the sign where the caller could call to listed to a 1-minute description of the artwork.

Committee Member Mills-Thysen asked for an update on the two pending public art pieces.

Director Svanstrom provided the following update:

- Both are in progress.
- Mr. Kahn is having some issues due to cost increases.
- Hopes to have more information at the next Public Arts Committee meeting.
- Mr. McGinnis is working with his attorney on finalizing contract language in order to move the project along.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Committee Member Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Langberg seconded the motion. Chair Vertz adjourned the meeting of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee at 12:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Public Arts Committee meeting will be held on February 05, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., at Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA. The regularly scheduled meeting on January 01, 2020 has been cancelled due to the holiday.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom
Planning Director