

Draft
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF Monday, December 16, 2019
CONFERENCE ROOM 360, CITY HALL
2263 SANTA CLARA AVENUE – 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gillitt called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Sherman Lewis, Liz Rush, Adam Gillitt, Mark Farrell.

Absent: Commissioner Kirstin Van Cleef (excused).

Lois Butler (PAC Secretary), Amanda Gehrke and Annie Cox are present as staff to the Commission.

3. MINUTES

3-A. 2020-7554 Draft Meeting Minutes - September 25, 2019. Corrections to minutes:

Commissioner Farrell's name corrected and position clarified, Commissioner Van Cleef's name corrected. A motion to approve minutes with corrections was made by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 4-0.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Comment by Rachel Campos: informed general public and commission that at last Mayor's Economic Development Advisory Panel, supporting art and artists was a highlighted component of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, and is a focus of the efforts by the Economic Development Division.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5-A. 2020-7555 Establishment of a Regular PAC Meeting Schedule

- Staff Member Butler presented staff report recommending meetings occur every other month or quarterly in lieu of current monthly schedule with many cancelled meetings.
- Commissioners asked clarifying questions:
 - Vice Chairperson Rush: Are proposed changes due to staff availability or not enough agenda items? Staff Member Butler clarified that staffing the commission full time is not possible as detailed in priority session.
 - Commissioner Farrell: Does changing schedule impact Sunshine Ordinance? Staff Member Butler clarified that it does not. Benefit of reducing meetings is that fewer meetings are cancelled and it creates a more reliable schedule for the public. Staff Member Gehrke added that special meetings could be added as needed for additional items.
- Discussion: Key points: fewer cancellations are better for public trust and consistency; every other month keeps momentum of agenda items moving forward. A motion to establish meetings every other month starting in February of 2020 was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Farrell. The motion carried 4-0.

5-B. 2020-7557 Recommendation to Approve the Relocation of the Dan Fontes Mural to the McKinley Park Recreation Center.

- Staff Member Gehrke presented the staff report. Key points: property owners of original location declined mural; muralist acted in good faith, met all city requirements and invested significant effort into original design with no compensation; relocation will require a redesign of the mural; presentation of three possible alternate locations, with McKinley Park being the artist and city staff's recommended location.
- Commissioners asked clarifying commissions:
 - Commissioner Farrell: Has effort been made to find alternate privately owned building in similar location to host mural? Staff Member Gehrke shared that most cities do not put public art on private property due to easement issues, maintenance issues, and deed concerns.
 - Chairperson Gillitt: Were other locations assessed? Staff Member Gehrke responded that Recreation and Parks Department was consulted, along with muralist, and three locations presented are the recommendations at this time.
 - Commissioner Farrell: How much funding has been dispersed to date? Staff Member Gehrke: None.
 - Commissioner Lewis: How profound is redesign needed? Defer to muralist during discussion.
- Muralist Dan Fontes presented statement regarding redesign and relocation. Key points included: difficulty of public art on private property (liability, maintenance, owner's preferences); total redesign required due to site-specific initial design; aesthetic and environmental preference for McKinley Park; benefit of acrylic paint for longevity, safety, and maintenance (graffiti clean-up); new design to be painted directly onto the surface of the building; initial ideas for new design.
- Discussion of location of McKinley Park. Concern raised by Commissioner Farrell that redesign circumvents application process. Staff Member Butler clarified that the new design would go to Parks Commission and City Council for approval. Redesign and relocation must also have approval of PAC.
- Speaker Rachel Campos, board member for West End Arts, expressed gratitude to city staff and muralist for effort thus far. Requested more time to research alternate location on Webster St.
- Discussion: Key points: importance of art on West End/Webster St; delay decision until next PAC meeting for Speaker Campos to research alternatives; Muralist Fontes comfortable with waiting until next meeting, and expressed interest in doing mural on Webster St regardless of outcome of this mural; challenges of putting public art on private property; pinball mural at alternate location; approval process of relocation; time needed to research alternate sites; art RFQ process at other cities.
- A motion to delay decision until next PAC meeting to allow time for Speaker Campos to research alternate sites and contact building owners was made by Vice Chairperson Rush and seconded by Commissioner Farrell. The motion carried 4-0.

5-C. 2020-7558 Recommendation to Approve the Release of Additional Funding for the Gateway Columns Public Art Project

- Staff Member Gehrke presented the staff report. Key points included: artist acquired insurance, business license, and permits, contract executed; original budget now insufficient due to increased construction, engineering and steel costs, underestimated permit costs and artist time; concern of setting precedent however staff recommended increase in budget by \$11,001 to adjust for increase costs; \$10,000 already dispersed to artist (\$9800 paid to engineer); if release of additional funding not approved, unspent money would go back to general art fund; lessons learned: city may hold additional contingency in future.
- Clarifying questions: none.
- Artist Norman Moore expressed appreciation for consideration of additional funding; underestimated budget due to scale of piece, construction and engineering costs.
- Clarifying questions:
 - Vice Chairperson Rush: Was original estimate realistic? Artist Moore: offset increase in costs by reducing other costs; explored reducing size or number of columns.
 - Commissioner Farrell: Request to elaborate on 20% increase in contractor expense. Artist Moore: due to engineering restrictions, contractor must apply skin to columns that was originally anticipated to be artist application.
 - Chairperson Gillitt: How much funding is available in fund? Where will it come from? Staff Member Gehrke: \$177,000 available in fund uncommitted.
 - Commissioner Farrell: Why such increase in cost? Staff Member Butler clarified that increase in costs due to additional requirements by building department, construction industry costs increased almost 30% in bay area.
 - Vice Chairperson Rush: How to avoid another funding request for this art? Staff Member Gehrke confirmed permits approved and artist is at fabrication stage.
 - Commissioner Farrell: Can we prevent this in future? Staff Member Butler clarified that preliminary conversations with building department possible, but review cannot happen before payment, designs, and application have been submitted; stressed importance of building in contingency funds, recommended discussing at future meeting.
 - Commissioner Lewis: Any other current projects expected to have same issue? Staff Member Butler responded unlikely, as two projects from different fund, and third project already in fabrication stage.
- Discussion: safety concerns and engineering costs dependent on size/type of art; underestimation due to unforeseen circumstances; lesson learned that costs can change significantly, therefore should have contingency on each design; recommend separate meeting to discuss contingency; clarification that other departments are consulted on initial idea, however full review and approval cannot happen without plans and engineer reports; importance of artist education with building budgets and application process.
- A motion to approve the release of additional funding for the Gateway Columns Public Art Project was put forth by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Vice Chairperson Rush. Motion carries 4-0.

5-D. 2020-7560 Biennial Report for the Public Art Fund

- Staff Member Gehrke explained requirement that Public Art Commission report be presented to City Council biennially, then reviewed key points in report; funding, grants completed and pending; remaining funding; Public Art Small Grant Pilot program opening January 2, 2020; Public Art Small Grant Pilot orientation session on January 15, 2020; and next priority task to revise Public Art Ordinance.
- Commissioners asked clarifying questions:
 - Chairperson Gillitt: How is promotion of Small Grant program occurring? Staff Member Gehrke clarified promotion through email list, website, social media, and press release.
 - Vice Chairperson Rush: How long is promotional period? Staff Member Gehrke: applications open January 2, 2020 and are due February 29, 2020.
- Speaker Janet Koike commented that promotion should include focus on celebration of “unique history of Alameda” in physical and performance art.
- Discussion: Commissioner Farrell impressed with artwork that has occurred, would like commission to be present at opening/performance. Chairperson Gillitt tabled further discussion to Commissioner Communications.
- A motion to approve the Biennial Report for the Public Art Fund for presentation to City Council by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Motion carries 4-0.

5-E. 2020-7561 Eligibility of Upcoming Projects for the Public Art Requirement. Staff to provide the Public Art Commission with a status update on the eligibility of upcoming projects for the Public Art Requirement

- Staff Member Gehrke provided update by reviewing spreadsheet.
- Commissioners asked clarifying questions:
 - Chairperson Gillitt asked why Shipways project listed as withdrawn. Staff Member Butler clarified that property was sold to other developer. Amount of public art requirement unclear at this time as Shipway renovation scope not yet determined.
 - Commissioner Farrell asked what art pieces were for Alameda Landing. Staff Member Butler listed several art pieces in Alameda Landing.
- Discussion: none.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

- Staff Member Butler introduced Staff Member Annie Cox who will do minutes for PAC.
- Staff Member Butler updated commission on department projects, such as Restaurant Week and Mixology kickoff event, Small Business Saturday event, Public Art Small Grant Pilot Program.

7. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Discussion of centralized online calendar for all art projects and events in Alameda; working with Public Information Officer, Sarah Henry, to publicize sponsored events and

other art events; possibility of granting login or open submissions for dedicated calendar; who would be moderator for shared calendar; Staff Member Butler will research general calendar; agreement to discuss in next meeting. Speaker Tina Blaine, Executive Director of Rhythmix, shared that PIO posts certain Rhythmix events to city calendar, particularly if City-sponsored. Staff Member Butler clarified that each department responsible for posting events.

- Discussion of commission presence at art openings and performances. Staff Member Butler clarified that topic needs to be agenda item, recommends putting on next meeting's agenda.
- Speaker Tina Blaine expressed request for discussion of funds to be made available for larger projects, and committed to emailing request to the board, so item can be added to future agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Gillitt adjourned the meeting at 7:43. Chairperson reopened meeting at 7:44 to allow for public comment. Chairperson Gillitt adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Butler
Economic Development Manager
Secretary
Public Art Commission