

**Draft**  
**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, October 19, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson Adam Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Liz Rush, Commissioners Mark Farrell, Kirstin Van Cleef, and Tierney Sneeringer.

Absent: None.

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

**3. MINUTES**

**3-A. 2020-8413 Review and Approve Draft Minutes August 17, 2020**

Chairperson Gillitt corrected the draft minutes that he had requested an update by the Alameda Fire Department on Public Art for the Emergency Operations Center, not Commissioner Farrell. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Vice Chairperson Rush and seconded by Commissioner Farrell. Ayes: Chairperson Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioners Van Cleef, Sneeringer, and Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A. 2020-8408 Presentation by Alameda Fire Department on Public Art for the Emergency Operations Center**

- Acting Fire Chief Rick Zombeck presented an update on the Public Art for the Emergency Operations Center/Fire Station 3, explaining that \$54,000 of the \$200,000 project has been fund-raised, design work and plaster cast are complete and ready for bronzing, and the project is on hold pending further funding. Zombeck committed to bring funding requests to the city for the next budget to move this project to fruition, and offered to provide an update to the Commission in December. Staff member Butler offered to research the initial agreement on funding the public art portion (24min in) and provide an update in December.
- Zombeck answered clarifying questions.

**5-B. 2020-8409 Provide Input on Upcoming Public Art Program Prioritization Working Session**

- Staff member Gehrke introduced the prioritization working session, and provided an update on the short- medium- and long-term priorities set by the Commission in April 2019.
- Staff member Gehrke answered clarifying questions.
- Public Comment Adriene Segal provided feedback regarding outdoor temporary art that a stipend be included for artists who loan art to the City for display, and suggested an event similar to Australian public art event, Sculpture by the Sea.
- Public comment. Jess and Wes Warren offered to submit their proposal for a mural on the wall of Pedal. Commissioners invited submission for review.
- Commissioners discussed and identified the following ideas:
  - Developing marketing/communications program for public art in Alameda
  - Creation of Public Art Guidelines/Master Plan
  - Continuation of the Small Grants Pilot Program
  - Community process to identify locations for physical public art
  - New request for proposals for physical and/or cultural art
  - Creating temporary facade art on closed store fronts
  - Developing an art park and/or art walk
  - Identifying and developing an art display area to be used for rotating physical art pieces that may be part of the art park
  - Starting a new request for proposals for a community interactive art event.
  - Facilitating a community process to identify locations for physical public art
  - Collaborating with property owners for murals on identified areas
  - Developing a night-time, light-based space for artists to display projected art at Alameda Point

**5-C. 2020-8410 Recommend to City Council that Public Art Funds be used to repair and restore the Birth sculpture in an amount not to exceed \$55,000**

- Staff member Gehrke presented a summary of the recommendation to the City Council that public art funds be used to repair and restore the Birth sculpture in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.
- Gehrke welcomed comments and Gehrke and Butler answered clarifying questions. Staff members offered to research when the City became owners of the Birth Sculpture, and if there are other as-of-yet unidentified public art pieces in Alameda.
- Public comment Jess and Wes Warren recommended removing it.
- Cheryl Harawitz shared that in the development of the Public Art Ordinance, they had specifically not included using public art funds for maintenance fees.

- Commissioners discussed deaccession, restoration, relocation and relocation, selling the artwork, and offering to return the piece to the artist. Commissioners requested a deaccession estimate, a relocation estimate, research into maintenance fees if relocated outside the current area, asking the artist if he would be interested in taking the piece back, and researching other possible sources of funding for the work before making recommendations. Commissioners agreed that there should be a plan for deaccession of art or removal of art if it becomes controversial. (ends at 1:25)

**5-D. 2020-8411 Discussion Concerning Contribution Levels to the Public Art Fund Depending and Recommendation to Amend the Public Art Ordinance to Allow the Public Art Fund to be used for Deaccession of Artwork**

- Staff member Gehrke introduced the discussion of the contribution levels to the Public Art Fund and reviewed recommendations to amend the Public Art Ordinance to allow the fund to be used for deaccession of artwork, and provided an overview of previously-discussed recommended changes. Gehrke notified the Commission that changes to the ordinance will need to be reviewed by the Planning Board before going to City Council for approval. Butler advised the Commission that a special meeting will be called to discuss changes to the ordinance, and will include a presentation by the Planning Board, and that they will likely make a recommendation to reinstate the cap.
- Gehrke welcomed comments and answered questions.
- Public Comment: Cheryl Harawitz expressed concern about changing the ordinance.
- Public Comment: Jess and Wes Warren expressed concern about reinstating a cap, and encouraged the Commission to incentivize in-lieu contributions.
- Commissioners discussed proposed changes, including concerns about changing the in-lieu vs. on-site contribution amounts given the current economic climate, consulting with each artist to determine life of art and recommended maintenance lengths for each piece, consulting with a conservator to determine required maintenance on existing and/or future public art pieces. Commissioner Farrell reiterated that PAC has oversight on on-site public art, and recommends not decreasing any fees.

**5-E. 2020-8412 Status Update on the Eligibility of Upcoming Projects for the Public Art Requirement**

- Staff member Gehrke briefly presented status updates on the eligibility of upcoming projects for the public art requirement.
- Gehrke welcomed comments and answered questions.

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**7. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

- Commissioner communications asked for an update on Dan Fontes mural. Gehrke updated that the agreement has been signed by the property owner, and an update will be provided to the PAC in December.
- Commissioner Farrell asked if Tideland's funding slated for the cancelled Dragon Sculpture might be available for another art project. Butler offered to inquire and report back to the Commission.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- Public member Wes Warren expressed his gratitude for the PAC.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Gillitt adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Butler  
Economic Development Manager  
Secretary  
Public Art Commission