

Draft
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (PAC) REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 21, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Adam Gillitt called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Adam Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Liz Rush, Commissioner Mark Farrell.

Absent: none.

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

3. MINUTES

2021-1039 Review and Approve April 19, 2021 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Chairperson Gillitt. Ayes: Chairperson Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioner Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 3-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nathanial Basco provided an update regarding his Eagle-Scout "Alameda Public Piano Project": the donated piano is being painted by a local artist and will be at Nob Hill Foods from July 17 to Aug 7 for public enjoyment, thanked Commissioner Farrell for his help with this project, and the PAC for their support of the project, and requested promotional assistance with the project.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2021-1040 Recommendation to Approve the Release of Additional Funding for the Rockspinners Public Art Project

Staff member Gehrke updated the PAC on the Rockspinners public art project. In the process of installing the support columns for the project, it was determined that additional work was needed for ADA accessibility as well as a small curb to level the site for the structures. The Alameda Recreation and Parks District (ARPD) paid \$23,119 for additional work. Staff sought approval from the commission to use \$11,559.50 of the Public Art Fund to reimburse ARPD for 50 percent of the site improvements. Gehrke explained that additional funding was needed as a site engineering evaluation was not completed prior to artist's proposal submission, and that staff hope to identify and pre-evaluate potential public art sites or include engineering evaluations in future physical art proposals.

Gehrke answered clarifying questions, and commissioners discussed the recommendation. Commissioners expressed appreciation for ARPD's generous offer to pay for half of the additional expenses, and encouraged pre-evaluating potential physical art sites or ensuring engineering evaluations of future proposals. Staff member Butler clarified that ARPD installed a curb surrounding another public art piece at Jean Sweeny Park at no cost.

Vice Chairperson Rush put forth the motion to recommend to City Council that they approve the allocation of additional funding from the Public Art Fund in the amount of \$11,559.50 for the Rockspinners public art project and, in the event that the updated Public Art Ordinance is passed allowing the Commission to approve the release of funds, that the Commission approves the release of said additional funds. Seconded by Commissioner Farrell. Ayes: Chairperson Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioner Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 3-0.

5-B 2021-1041 Recommendation to Review and Provide Feedback on a Draft Request for Proposals for a Public Art Plan

Staff member Gehrke presented the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Public Art Plan, which includes the following five priority elements:

- Development of a mission, vision, and goals for the public art program, incorporation a priority of cultural equity;
- A review of existing background documents;
- Creation and/or update of policies and procedures for site on-site public artwork and public art grants, building on existing materials and policies;
- A community engagement process
- Recommendation of programs and strategies to increase public art funding in Alameda.

Additionally, the Draft RFP identified three elements to include in the Public Art Plan if possible: identifying new locations for public art, recommending and prioritizing new public art programming, and keeping the plan within a budget of \$40,000.

Gehrke answered clarifying questions. Ms. Gehrke shared that the public art fund had received additional contributions, allowing for more funding for the Public Art Master Plan. The commissioners discussed the proposal, including extending application window from 3 to 6 weeks, and accepting staff's recommendation to increase RFP budget from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Vice Chairperson Rush put forth the motion to approve the Draft Request for Proposals with an increased budget of \$60,000. Seconded by Chairperson Gillitt. Ayes: Chairperson Gillitt, Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioner Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 3-0.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff member Gehrke provided the following updates:

- **Dan Fontes Mural** – Final paperwork is being submitted and final maintenance plan is being reviewed by City's conservationist. Installation is expected by end of Summer 2021.
- **Alameda Afore** – Due to the proximity of a sewer main lateral, the sculpture will be moved approximately two feet from its original location.
- **Commissioner Updates** – The Mayor's nominees for new PAC commissioners will likely be submitted to City Council in July.

7. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Chairperson Gillitt shared that Madlen Saddik, President of Alameda Chamber of Commerce, has offered to help promote Public Art Events, Shows, and Installations within Alameda.

Commissioner Farrell notified the Commission that he has not been reappointed for another term, and that he has been notified that his term will end when City Council appoints new commissioners, although it is unclear if this will happen before the August PAC meeting. He expressed his appreciation for his time on the commission, and for the opportunity to work with the other commissioners on Alameda's public artwork. Chairperson Gillitt and Vice Chairperson Rush thanked Commissioner Farrell deeply for his service, sharing that they will miss his presence and the insight he brought to the commission.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Gillitt adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Butler
Economic Development Manager
Secretary, Public Art Commission