

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, October 16, 2014
Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Chambers
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Kathleen Kavanaugh, Nia Taylor, Amanda Ross, Ben Miyaji, Dara Silverstein,

Commissioners Absent: Vikki Tobak, Jim Migdal

Staff present: Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Program Manager
Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Assistant II
Karen Holman, City Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Kavanaugh

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Moved:** Commissioner Ross moved to approve the September 22 Minutes. **Second:** by Commissioner Taylor. **All in favor.** The September 18 Minutes were tabled for the November 20 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT – DeMarzo provided a detailed update for the CIP and Maintenance budgets.

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo reported on the installation of a public art project by Joe O’Connell and Blessing Hancock at the Rinconada Library and Art Center. The six sculptures were installed on the plaza and are anticipated to begin lighting up at night at the end of October. DeMarzo also reported on the installation of the new irrigation system and ground lighting surrounding Nathan Oliveira’s artwork at in the Art Center’s sculpture garden. DeMarzo also provided an update on the completion of Anthony Discenza’s installation of *Questions about Your City* in downtown Palo Alto. On October 15, the artist gave a presentation about his work at the Downtown Library followed by a brief walking tour of a portion of the installation.

ACTION

1. Acquisition of artwork into the Collection – Staff provided background on artist and war veteran Ehren Tool. In June, 2014 Tool was the Artist-in-Residence at the Palo Alto Art Center where he produced several a series of wheel-thrown ceramic vessels. He produced a monotype at Smith Andersen Edition just prior to his residency at the Art Center. The artwork is offered as a donation to the City’s public art collection by Pula Kirkeby. Staff recommended the Commission accept the donation of the artwork into the City collection. - **Motion:** Vice Chair Miyaji moved

that the Commission accepts the donation of the monotype into the collection. **Second** by Commissioner Ross. **All in favor.**

NON-ACTION

2. 3421 - 3431 Hillview Avenue – Initial review of public art in private development for VMware campus presented by Director of Real Estate & Workplace at VMware Linda Marie Santiago, Architect Bob Giannini, and Art Consultant Carol Dabb. The speakers provided a background of the development project and presented initial ideas for the art placement. Commissioners reviewed the details of the development project and provided feedback and art examples for possible types and themes of public art at the selected site. They also asked questions regarding the selection process to be undertaken and accessibility of the art.
3. 180 El Camino Real – Art Consultant Chandra Cerrito presented an informational report on the status of the art selection for Simon Property Group at the Stanford Shopping Center. Cerrito provided details about the selected artists and their previous commissions. Cerrito spoke about possible types of artworks to be created for the Stanford Shopping Center and the project timeline.
4. Temporary Public Art – Staff provided an update on the status of *Aurora*, a temporary public art project on King Plaza and spoke about the potential extension of the installation permit that expires in mid-November. The artist would like to extend the permit for the installation. Staff recommended revisiting the discussion as an action item in the upcoming PAC regular meeting. Staff will generate a staff report to provide history of the project and address any concerns regarding the matter, such as maintenance funds or availability of the artist to remove the artwork.

Members of the public and community advocates for *Aurora*, Harry, Sam, and Julia Hirschman spoke about the artwork and asked the Commission to consider the permit extension.

5. Public Art Master Plan - Staff provided an update on the status of the public art master plan process. The public art master planning call resulted in 6 proposals. The selection panel will review and evaluate the proposals later in October. The 2 or 3 highest scoring proposers will be invited to interview with the selection panel, tentatively in mid-November, to select a finalist.
6. Subcommittee Reports:
Outreach – Commissioner Olmsted updated the Commission on her efforts to share the word about Anthony Discenza’s artist talk on October 15. In the future, Commissioner Olmsted intends to use the app to distribute the news across Palo Alto neighborhood groups.
7. Collection Review – The Commission reviewed a number of mixed media artworks listed on the Public Art Collection webpage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – none.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Next Meeting: November 20, 2014 7:00PM at Council Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM by Chair Kavanaugh.