

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, November 20, 2014
Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Chambers
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: **Kathleen Kavanaugh, Nia Taylor, Amanda Ross, Ben Miyaji, Jim Migdal**

Dara Silverstein joined the meeting at 7:12PM.

Commissioners Absent: **Vikki Tobak**

Staff present: **Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Program Manager**
 Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Assistant II

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Kavanaugh

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Moved:** Vice Chair Miyaji moved to approve the September 18 Minutes. **Second:** by Commissioner Migdal. **All in favor.** Commissioner Ross moved to approve The October 16 Minutes. **Second:** by Chair Kavanaugh. **All in favor.**

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

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo reported on the lighting of *Brilliance*, 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 now light up at night. DeMarzo also reported on the November 15 event to celebrate art and architecture on site. Joe O’Connell, Blessing Hancock, and Jerome Kirk attended the event and spoke about their artworks. Joe Oliveira briefly spoke about *Universal Woman* installed at the Art Center’s sculpture garden.

DeMarzo also provided an update on the soft opening of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center with four artworks installed throughout the site. The Grand Opening of the facility will take place on December 6, from 11AM to 4PM.

DeMarzo reported on the ongoing Bike Bridge competition. Three applications were selected by the panel to develop concepts for the new bike and pedestrian bridge competition. The selection panel will hold a public meeting in December to review conceptual proposals. The project and selected team is scheduled to come to the PAC in January to discuss the public art element of the project.

ACTION

1. Aurora – Staff presented the history of temporary public art installations on King plaza and provided an update on the contract status of the temporary installation of *Aurora*. The artwork by artist Charles Gadeken was installed on King Plaza in November 2013, in accordance with the agreement for the temporary exhibition of a work of art signed in October, 2013. The one year agreement between the City and Charles Gadeken expired October 27th, 2014, but allows for an extension of up to three months without having to amend the contract and renew permits through Planning and Architectural Review. Staff recommended that the Commission consider the extension of the installation contract for no longer than three months, requiring the removal of the artwork by January 27, 2015. The artist spoke to the Commission to ask for the extension of the installation for a longer period of time. Members of the public Alyssa Solomon, Parker Goodrich, Sam and Julia Hirschman spoke to the Commissioners to advocate for the extension of the temporary art installation. The Commissioners remarked that *Aurora* has been a successful temporary project enjoyed by many Palo Alto residents and visitors alike, and praised the artist and the community for their support and efforts to bring the artwork to Palo Alto. The commissioners inquired further about the de-installation and removal details, and other artworks that the artist might wish to exhibit in Palo Alto in the future. The Commissioners requested that staff follow up with a further discussion about the temporary public art project guidelines including extension provisions for the future temporary projects. Staff mentioned that this topic would be covered in the Master Planning process, but a special meeting could be arranged once she follows up with the Chair and Vice Chair. **Motion:** Vice Chair Miyaji moved to extend the *Aurora* installation contract until January 27, 2015. **Second** by Commissioner Silverstein. **All in favor.**

NON-ACTION

2. 411/437 Lytton Avenue – Architect Ken Hayes of Hayes Group Architects presented an initial review for public art in private development project at 411/437 Lytton Avenue. The speaker provided a background of the development project and presented possible locations for the art placement. Mr. Hayes informed the Commission that staff was hired by the developer as Art Consultant and provided a tentative timeline for the art project. Commissioners reviewed the details of the development project and provided feedback and examples for possible types, media and themes of public art at the selected site. The Commissioners suggested that the developer considers placing artwork(s) between the two buildings and consider incorporating glass, pavers, seating or street light elements to create a cutting edge, noticeable and engaging public art.

Commissioner Ross departed the meeting at 8:30PM.

3. 1050 Page Mill Road –Elise DeMarzo, staff art consultant for the project, provided an informational presentation on the art selection for the site. Staff provided details about the selected artist, Barbara Grygutis, and her previous work. DeMarzo discussed locations under consideration for the art placement.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

Innovation – Commissioner Migdal reported to the Commission on the status of his initiative to use a mobile application that would make the City collection of public art accessible on mobile devices.

7. Collection Review – the item was tabled for the next regular Public Art Collection meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2, 2014 – Public Art Commission art preview at the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.

December 6, 2014 – Grand opening of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center from 11AM to 4PM.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Next Meeting: December 18, 2014 7:00PM at Council Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM by Chair Kavanaugh.