

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, January 22, 2014
Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Chambers
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:01 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: Vikki Tobak, Jim Migdal

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 7:01 PM by Chair Kavanaugh

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Palo Alto resident and former Public Art Commissioner Judith Wasserman addressed the Public Art Commission on the subject of the present condition of Susan Leibovitz Steinman’s artwork titled *California Avenue California Native*. Wasserman asked the PAC to take conservation measures to preserve the integrity of the artwork.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Moved:** Commissioner Silverstein moved to approve the December 9, 2014 Minutes. **Second:** by Chair Kavanaugh. **Motion Passed** (4-0, Commissioner Ross abstained). **Moved:** Commissioner Ross moved to approve the December 18, 2014 Minutes. **Second:** by Chair Kavanaugh. **Motion Passed** (4-0, Vice Chair Miyaji abstained).

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

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo reported on the status of the California Avenue Fountain project. December 23, 2014 the old fountain was demolished and the site was prepared for the construction of the plaza. The installation of the new fountain by artist Michael Szabo is scheduled for February, 2015. DeMarzo also reported on the status of the University Avenue Tunnels project. Artists Ala Ebtakar and Binta Ayofemi met with staff on-site to conduct light tests on-site to test two different systems. There is a public art class being taught at Stanford this semester to work on the project.

NON-ACTION

1. Bike Bridge Design Competition – City of Palo Alto’s Senior Project Manager for Public Works Elizabeth Ames provided the background of the adobe creek bike/pedestrian bridge competition and requested that the Public Art Commission provide general comments on the bridge concepts to be forwarded to the City Council. The team of California firms HNTB Engineering, 64North, Bionic Landscape Architecture, and artist Ned Kahn (Submission A) had been identified as the winning design. The team of Moffat & Nichol, SGA, Lutsko, JIRI, & MTC (Submission C) and the team of Endre Studio, OLIN, P&P, and Biohabitats (Submission B) had taken 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Three videos with the final design proposals were presented to the Commission. Marcel Wilson of the HNTB design team presented the overview of the conceptual proposal for the Submission A bridge design. The Commissioners provided feedback based on the presented concepts stating that Submission A features a coherent, functional work of art well integrated into the site. Several Commissioners voiced their agreement with the panel that Submission A was the strongest proposal. Concerns were raised regarding the level of light reflection for drivers and pilots. Submission B features a thoughtful and sustainable design but raises questions about maintenance and durability of natural materials. Submission C demonstrates a delicate and elegant design but was not the iconic bold design asked for in the design guidelines.
2. 430 Forest Avenue – Developer Prabhas Kejriwal presented an initial overview of the private development project sited on 430 Forest Avenue. The developer provided a background of the development project including the layout and possible locations for the art placement. Mr. Kejriwal informed the Commission that artist Yoshikawa is being considered for the project. The Commissioners reviewed the presented materials and provided feedback stating that the placement of artwork should consider public accessibility and the site closest to Forest would be more visible. Some Commissioners encouraged the applicant to also consider other artists for the project. The scale of the artwork should be appropriate for the building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 3, 2015, 5:30 – 6:30 PM – Community meeting with artist Susan Narduli in the community meeting room at the Palo Alto Downtown library. Commissioners to please RSVP to staff.

February 23, 2015 - City Council meeting to approve the finalist for the Adobe Creek Bike Bridge Design Competition.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Next Meeting:

February 19, 2015, 7:00 – 8:00PM PAC Special Meeting to discuss project priorities and budgeting for 2015 followed by PAC Regular Meeting at the City Hall Community Room.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM by Chair Kavanaugh.