

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

Commissioners Present: Larisa Usich, Amanda Ross, Kathleen Kavanaugh, Ben Miyaji, Ally Richter.

Commissioners Absent: Vikki Tobak, Trish Collins

Staff present: Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Manager

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – Item 3 was tabled for a future agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Moved:** Vice Chair Myaji moved to approve the January 16 Minutes. **Second:** by Commissioner Richter. **All in favor.**

Moved: Chair Kavanaugh moved to approve the February 5 minutes, **Second:** Vice Chair Miyaji seconded. **All in favor.**

FINANCIAL REPORT - The CIP and Maintenance budgets were briefly discussed, including some clarifications regarding the CIP budget format.

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo updated the Commission on the upgrades and repairs made to *Aurora* in front of City Hall with new instructions on how to control the lights. DeMarzo also mentioned the presentation that took place at Lucie Stern January 30th regarding the upcoming May 6, 2014 Day of Giving.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Art Boxes and Downtown Doors Projects – San Jose Arts Commissioner Tina Morrill presented the Art Boxes and Downtown Doors Projects in San Jose. There was brief discussion regarding the processes for both programs, challenges and successes.

ACTION

2. City Hall New Media Artwork – Staff updated the Commission on the process for artist selection regarding the new media artwork for City Hall lobby. There were 104 applicants for consideration for the commission. Staff is putting together the selection panel to choose up to five artists to create site-specific proposals. Staff anticipates that we will be able to announce who those artists are at the March Commission meeting. Staff requested that the Commission approve up to \$5,000 for artist stipends in the amount of \$1,000 each for the development of

proposals. **Motion:** Commissioner Usich moved that the Commission approve up to \$5,000 to be used for artist stipends. **Second:** Commissioner Richter seconded the motion. **All in favor.**

3. Mark Verlander, *Follow Your Heart* – Item was tabled for a future meeting.
4. CIP Budget Allocations – Chair Kavanaugh and Vice-Chair Miyaji initiated a discussion about the reallocation of earmarked funds in the CIP budget in anticipation of long range planning. There was some discussion regarding the need to earmark funds for a Public Art Master Plan and that the Artists Reaching Communities Funds have been earmarked for some time, but there has been inadequate staff support to be able to initiate the program. The Commissioners decided that this would be a good discussion for the upcoming half day retreat in connection with discussions regarding Master Planning. Commissioner Usich offered to give an overview of the ARC program to the Commission in preparation for that discussion. Item was tabled for discussion at the upcoming retreat.

NON-ACTION

5. Magical Bridge Playground – Peter Jensen, Landscape Architect for the City of Palo Alto, gave an overview of the Magical Bridge Playground project and presented a few logical options to incorporate the artwork. Construction is anticipated to begin in June with an estimated completion date of November. Commissioners weighed in with some ideas regarding the best placement for artwork. Staff will work on launching a call to artists as soon as possible. Mr. Jensen is also involved with the Parks Master Planning Process and offered to come give a presentation at the March meeting regarding the master planning process and how art might be integrated into the plan.
6. Subcommittee Reports – The subcommittees agreed to table presentations until next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2014, Council Conference Room

Joint Meeting with Council: April 7, 2014, 6:00, Council Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM.