

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM – 500 CASTRO STREET
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Susi Merhar.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Cliff Bryant, Jesse Cupp (arrived 6:06 p.m., after roll call), Lacy Rathbun, Regina Sakols, Tootoo Thomson, Vice Chair Regina Sakols, and Chair Susi Merhar.

Absent: Committee member Don Whitebread (excused).

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; and Dawn S. Cameron, Acting Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director.

Staff Comment: Dawn S. Cameron introduced herself as Acting Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director to the Visual Arts Committee members.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Bryant/Sakols—Carried 5-0-2 (Cupp, Whitebread absent)—To approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting as presented.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.

5. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS—None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROGRAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

Staff provided an update on Capital Improvement Projects, including the Rengstorff Aquatics Center (18-38), Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings (21-48), Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project (21-35), and Evelyn Park (21-60).

Public Comment: Nicholas Hargis commented that the City should explore art grant opportunities and provided a general comment that he is interested in seeing art projects at corner markets.

6.2 UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE RELATED TO PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

The ad hoc committee on the Public Art Strategy provided an update on discussions they had with Mountain View for Sustainable Planning regarding the development of a Public Art Strategy. Committee member Bryant asked what the next steps will be. Staff indicated that the item is currently scheduled for a Study Session with the City Council in May, the purpose being for the City Council to set the direction for the Public Art Strategy. Staff will provide an update at the next VAC meeting regarding information about the public art Study Session.

No public comment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS CALL FOR ARTIST AND JURY PROCESS DISCUSSION

Staff presented the memorandum on the Center for the Performing Arts calls for artist and jury process. The Committee discussed potential augmentations to future calls for artists and jury process for the Center for the Performing Arts exhibits and requested the following augmentations/additions to the calls and jury process:

- Add language in the call that states priority will be given to artists who have not previously exhibited at the Center for the Performing Arts.
- Require artist to self-declare past exhibit dates, if applicable.
- Ask artists for confirmation that they have reviewed exhibit requirements.
- Ask artist for email, website link, social media (Instagram), and residency.

- Consider removing requirement to provide annotated image descriptions with the application and, instead, staff will gather that information separately.
- Allow the VAC to see artist names when evaluating the applications.
- Create a standardized way to accept submissions by artist groups/collaboratives since the Call for Entry (callforentry.org) application system does not allow for multiple artist entries within one application.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff shared that a Downtown Committee member contacted staff to share their interest in a downtown mural program, and they also shared contact information for two mural artists, both of whom are located outside of the Bay Area, but can be included in future calls.

Staff gave a preview of an interim Public Art Map that is on the City's website now. The map shows City-commissioned art on public and private property and includes latitude and longitude of each piece, photos, and details of the project and artist that are viewable in the map. The map will be translated into Arc GIS in the future. Staff requested that if there are any artwork pieces that are not on the map, the Committee should send photos and locations to staff to add to the map. Staff noted that El Camino Hospital has too much art within the building to add every piece but that it is a great place to visit to see art. Vice Chair Sakols said that Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation also has a lot of art within the building.

Committee member Bryant commented that at Wyandotte Park, the wood sculpted bench, which was sealed using a Japanese technique that involved burning the bench, has transformed after rain washed away the black burn marks and now the wooden details are more visible.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by Kirstin Hinds, Recording Secretary.

Approved on _____.

KH/4/CDD
816-02-14-24mn