

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM – 500 CASTRO STREET
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Jesse Cupp.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Cliff Bryant, Tootoo Thomson (arrived 6:08 p.m., after roll call), Don Whitebread, Vice Chair Susi Merhar, and Chair Jesse Cupp.

Absent (Excused): Committee members Toni Hsu and Regina Sakols.

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; David Printy, Principal Project Manager; and Faryal Saiidnia, Senior Project Manager.

Public Comment: Bruce England, Mountain View resident, commented that the audio on the virtual meeting was difficult to hear. John Lang said that there is no ability to control the microphone volume.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes from November 8, 2023 were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Merhar/Whitebread—Carried 5-0-2; Hsu, Sakols absent—To approve the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meetings as presented.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jasmin Aber, a Mountain View resident, concurred with Bruce England's comment during roll call that the volume was low on the virtual call.

Bruce England commented that there is a budget set for public art at the Transit Center and the Public Safety Building, and while public art at both locations would be great, he has heard an emphasis on public art in the Transit Center instead of the Public Safety Building due to its location at the heart of Mountain View.

Anita Rosen, a Mountain View resident and Principal for Arts Mountain View, said that she was at the November meeting and commented that she is concerned with permits for murals and that she was told that she does not need a permit and then was later told that she does need a permit. Ms. Rosen requested to get a no-cost permit to paint murals in Mountain View.

5. **UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS**

Committee member Merhar requested a discussion on insurance and permitting requirements for artists at a future meeting as well as the process to have topics heard at meetings.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROGRAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES**

NOTE: Item 6.1 was considered out of agenda order.

Chair Cupp asked and received VAC consensus to take Item 6.3 out of order.

- Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center (Project 18-38): Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center construction is not anticipated to be completed until early spring 2024 due to construction delays. The three art components are on track and are at various stages of completion. The project team is working with each artist on final installation details and coordination so that the art can be installed once the building and site are ready and safe for the art.
- Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings (Project 21-48): Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings project is currently in construction, and the former buildings have been demolished. The new prefabricated structures are expected to be delivered to the site in spring/summer 2024. Staff has been working with the artists, Fernanda Martinez and Harumo Sato, as well as the Public Works project team, to come to an agreement on the contracts before taking the recommendation to Council. We are anticipating taking the agreements to Council in February 2024 with the public art installation start date to follow the delivery/installation of the maintenance and tennis building structures.

- Evelyn Park (Project 21-60): The Public Works Evelyn Park project team is currently finalizing the Evelyn Park design to release a construction bid in early 2024. Staff is coordinating with Looking Up Arts and the Public Works project team to ensure the sculpture design can be incorporated into the construction bid. Simultaneously, we are working with the artist team to come to an agreement on the contract. We are anticipating taking the agreements to Council in February 2024. The construction timeline is tentatively from spring through summer 2024 with the public art installation to follow.
- Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project (Project 21-35): The project timing is shifting, and staff is keeping the artist up-to-date based upon potential design and timing changes. The City Council will be hearing an update on the project in January 2024, and staff will have more clarity on the project after that time.

6.2 UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE RELATED TO PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

Vice Chair Merhar provided an overview of a new recommended approach to the proposed goals, strategies, and actions with the draft Public Art Strategy, in particular focusing on required policy changes, new events, and proposed staffing to support the Public Art Strategy. Responding to questions from Committee members Bryant and Whitebread, staff shared with the Committee the proposed date to bring forward a Public Art Strategy Study Session with the City Council. The date scheduled is March 26, 2024, to have the City Council provide direction as to what they would like to see in a public art strategy based upon Best Practices.

Public Comment: Jasmin Aber asked if Mountain View has data on the contribution of arts and culture to economic development in the City and commented that data on arts and culture could provide information on what the City is gaining with public art and that there was a loss to the City for not utilizing art more strategically, and requesting developers to give a certain percentage of a development to the arts. Ms. Aber commented on the connection between economic development and arts and culture, and that arts and culture bring cohesion to a city and are memorable and make a city competitive, which arts and culture strategic planning could help. Staff commented that the City does not currently have much data on the impact of arts and culture on economic development.

6.3 VILLA-CHIQUITA PARK JURYING (PROJECT 21-61)

NOTE: Item 6.3 was considered out of agenda order.

Staff provided an overview of the updated jury scoring for the Villa-Chiquita Park project. Complete jurying results were:

Artist	Mean	Median	Mode
James Dinh	6.0	7.0	7.0
Nina K. Ekman	5.7	7.0	7.0
Debra Koppman	5.0	5.0	7.0
Angelina Milicia Duckett	4.4	4.0	7.0

The VAC members discussed the James Dinh, Nina Ekman, and Debra Koppman proposals. Faryal Saiidnia, Senior Project Manager, provided input on the James Dinh and Nina Koppman projects, flagging that the use of metal in the James Dinh proposal may overheat in the sun and that resin proposed by Nina Koppman may not last longer than a few years due to heat/sun exposure. Ms. Saiidnia also commented that James Dinh’s proposal includes use of photos, and the artist may need permission from community members in the photos.

Motion—M/S Bryant/Whitebread—Carried 5-0-2; Hsu, Sakols absent—To direct staff to move forward with James Dinh’s proposal.

Public Comment: Jasmin Aber, a Mountain View resident, asked why there were no responses received to create benches at Sylvan Park.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SVCREATES

Staff presented an overview of the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with SVCreates. Staff noted the signing of the MOU was consistent with the VAC discussions on growing arts and culture in Mountain View through new strategic partnerships.

Public Comment: Jasmin Aber, a Mountain View resident, shared that she had worked with SVCreates in San Jose, and they helped with an art fest in San Jose called ZERO1.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff commented that Committee member Hsu's term has been completed for the Visual Arts Committee. Staff and the VAC members thanked her for the time and service to the VAC.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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

Approved on _____.

KH/1/CDD
816-12-13-23mn