

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM – 500 CASTRO STREET
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jesse Cupp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Cliff Bryant, Toni Hsu, Regina Sakols, Don Whitebread (virtual), Vice Chair Susi Merhar, and Chair Jesse Cupp.

Absent: Tootoo Thomson (excused).

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Laurel James, Principal Management Analyst; and Robert Gonzales, Principal Civil Engineer.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Bryant/Merhar—Carried 6-0-1; Thomson absent—To approve the March 8, 2023 minutes as presented.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public Comment: Bruce England would love to see the VAC play a role in supporting art in private development with the North Bayshore Middlefield Park development.

5. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS:

- Placemaking opportunities related to the Castro Interim Pedestrian Mall and other long-term Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects;

- Discuss how art placement and landscaping integration can be further explored (Biodiversity Strategy);
- Council Policy K-5 augmentations to better capture more CIP projects (art in bike lane integrations);
- Joint committee meeting with the Downtown Committee;
- Villa Park and Evelyn Park;
- Explore programs for youth artists;
- Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings Mural concepts;
- Café Replacement;
- Art Utility Boxes;
- Downtown monthly Art Walks; and
- Collaboration with the Performing Arts Committee.

Public comment: None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 CIP PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

- Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center (CIP Project 18-38): Project is at approximately 25% complete and on track to open in fall 2023. Artist coordination has commenced with the design team.
- Fayette Park (CIP Project 20-48): Construction has commenced. Artist has fabricated the art and is on track to complete art by May 2023. A brief video of the fabricated artwork was played for the Committee.
- Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings (CIP Project 21-48): Design is wrapping up, and the project will be bid in April. Construction expected in summer.

Public Comment: Bruce England inquired about the status and outcome of reusing or incorporating the original public art that was on-site at the Aquatics Center.

6.2 TRANSIT CENTER GRADE SEPARATION AND ACCESS PROJECT CALL FOR ARTISTS

Staff provided a brief presentation to the Visual Arts Committee on the various locations that public art would be allowed within the project area. Given the scope and budget, staff recommended the identification of two areas for public art within the project area. One area (Area 1) was identified as the stairwell to Castro Street/Evelyn Avenue and the undercrossing tunnel that leads to the lower concourse from the Castro Street/Evelyn Avenue stairwell. The second area (Area 2) was the walls within the lower concourse area (middle of the project area) and then the upper concourse leading to both the Caltrain and VTA platforms. The Committee discussed and addressed the following four questions:

- The geography for the Call for Artists will be all of California.
- The theme for consideration with this Call for Artists would be: “What does Mountain View mean to you?”
- The VAC determined the two locations for art within the project would be: Area 1 will be the stairwell leading towards Castro Street and the adjoining undercrossing tunnel, and Area 2 would be the upper concourse leading to the Caltrain and VTA platforms.
- The funding breakdown for the two areas would be: Area 1 will range from \$250,000 to \$300,000, and Area 2 will range from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Public Comment: None.

6.3 PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

Staff provided a brief verbal update on the work of the Public Art Strategy. Several files were lost when the retention policy automatically deleted files from a former coworker. Although the working document of the draft Strategy was not lost, the early policy work that the Committee and staff collaborated on has been lost. Staff also posited to the Committee whether there was interest in updating a *Public Art in Mountain View* book that was originally produced by the VAC in 1998 as part of launching a new Public Art Strategy. The Committee was interested in exploring an update of the book in coordination with a new Public Art Strategy.

Public Comment: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 AD HOC COMMITTEE RELATED TO PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

The Committee discussed establishing an ad hoc committee to assist staff with furthering the development of the Public Art Strategy. The Committee asked staff to return to the next meeting with an outline of items that an ad hoc committee could work on to support City staff.

Public Comment: None.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments made or questions raised.

Public Comment: None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by John Lang, Recording Secretary.

Approved on _____.

~~JL/1/CDD~~

~~819-04-12-23mn~~