

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING—WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM—500 CASTRO STREET
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Susi Merhar.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Cliff Bryant, Jesse Cupp, Tootoo Thomson, Vice Chair Regina Sakols, and Chair Susi Merhar.

Absent: Committee members Lacy Rathbun (excused) and Don Whitebread (excused).

Staff Present: Dawn S. Cameron, Acting Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director; John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; Ayano Hattori, Senior Project Manager; David Printy, Principal Project Manager; and Aruna Bodduna, Transportation Planner.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Merhar/Bryant—Carried 5-0-2; Rathbun, Whitebread absent—To approve the minutes of the April 10, 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 updates on Capital Improvement Projects Evelyn Park (21-60) and Villa-Chiquita Park (21-61). Both projects will be considered for approval by the City Council at their meeting on May 14, 2024. No additional updates or information were provided on Rengstorff Aquatics Center (18-38), Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings (21-48), and Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project (21-35), Evelyn Park (21-60), Villa-Chiquita Park (21-61), and Sylvan Park (21-46).

Public Comment: None.

6.2 DISCUSSION ON CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION RELTED TO A PUBLIC ART STRATEGY.

NOTE: Item 6.2 was considered out of agenda order.

Economic Development staff informed the VAC that a City Council Study Session on a public art strategy is scheduled for October 2024. This will be a chance for Council to receive information that is based on best practices that are frequently compiled into public art strategies. Council can provide feedback and direction to staff on what their vision is for a strategy. Given that the VAC has spent more than 12 months developing a public art strategy, staff wants to capture this information and present it to the City Council. At the June 12, 2024 VAC meeting, staff intends to conduct a Study Session to capture VAC feedback and incorporate the information as an attachment to Council's October 2024 Study Session.

Public Comment: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 ARTS AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING ON THE BUSINESS OF ARTS AND CULTURE BY SVCREATES (SILICON VALLEY CREATES)

NOTE: Item 7.1 was considered out of agenda order.

Connie Martinez, former CEO of SVCcreates, provided a briefing to the VAC on what SVCcreates does as a nonprofit entity. She also shared statistics regarding the arts community and insight into ways an agency may engage with the greater Silicon Valley arts community. SVCcreates has over 100 partnerships with nonprofit artist organizations and has conducted municipal roundtables that bring Santa Clara County local jurisdictions together to discuss best practices around the arts. Committee

members asked SVCcreates clarifying questions about how they support artists and how they address and approach advocacy.

Public Comment: Nicholas Hargis expressed how arts can stimulate a local economy. David Garcia asked how art can be used to preserve the culture of Mountain View.

7.2 CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR SHORELINE BOATHOUSE EXPANSION (PROJECT 20-39)

Public Works staff provided an overview of the art opportunities that exist as part of the Shoreline Boathouse Remodel Project. There are six locations that could incorporate a variety of 2-D art and up to two locations that could potentially allow limited 3-D art. Based upon the Public Art budget for the project, VAC discussed a desire to have a statement art piece and inquired if there were other opportunities or locations for a larger art piece. Staff noted that habitat restrictions limit additional locations of art, and any additional areas considered for art placement would need to be located on a paved area given restoration requirements. Staff noted that the consideration of placing art within the event area that is part of the City's ground lease area would need to be discussed with the lessor.

Motion—M/S Cupp/Thomson—Carried 5-0-2; Rathbun and Whitebread absent—Remove Location No. 2 from any consideration of art on a wall.

Motion—M/S Cupp/Thomson—Carried 5-0-2; Rathbun and Whitebread absent—Explore areas adjacent to the Boathouse building for additional art opportunities.

Public Comment: None.

7.3 CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR CASTRO STREET INTERIM ART PROJECT

Economic Development staff provided an overview of the Castro Street Bollard Art Project. There are 32 bollards located within the three blocks of the Interim Pedestrian Mall. Of the 32 bollards, there are 12 bollards located behind intersection fencing that are available to artist painting.

Motion—M/S Cupp/Sakols—Carried 5-0-2; Rathbun and Whitebread absent—The call for artists should be advertised to the 11-county Bay Area region with a focus given to artists living in Santa Clara County, outreach to community colleges and high school art programs, and SVCcreates about the call for artists, and that the pair of bollards should have complementary artistic designs.

Public Comment: Bruce England stressed the importance of having bollard art that is not about building and static elements but, rather, reflects people and activities.

7.4 DISCUSSION ON VAC FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 WORK PLAN

Per City Council Policy A-23, the Committee reviewed and discussed changes to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Work Plan. They considered removing the Sidewalk Studio Pilot Phase 2 implementation from the Public Art Strategy work plan item or adding it to Work Item 5 (collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Business Association).

Staff will make the changes to the work plan recommended by the VAC at its June meeting and bring it back for consideration and adoption.

Public Comment: Bruce England commented that the VAC should consider more sustainable art and suggested the VAC think about the life cycle of art. In addition, Bruce England suggested that the VAC explore how art: (1) can be included or incorporated into a landscape; (2) can be cited with a more holistic approach; and (3) can be integrated into the surrounding area.

8. **COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS**—None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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

Approved on _____.

KH/4/CDD
816-05-80-24mn