

## **MINUTES**

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SPECIAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024  
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM – 500 CASTRO STREET  
6:00 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Jesse Cupp.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Committee members Cliff Bryant, Lacy Rathbun, Regina Sakols, Tootoo Thomson, and Don Whitebread, Vice Chair Susi Merhar, and Chair Jesse Cupp.

**Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; Aarti Shrivastava, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director; and Aruna Bodduna, Transportation Planner.

**Staff comment:** Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Aarti Shrivastava thanked the Committee for their work and for their effort on the Public Art Strategy that will come to the City Council soon.

Economic Vitality Manager Lang introduced new Visual Arts Committee Member Lacy Rathbun, and the Committee provided introductions.

**3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

The minutes from December 13, 2023 were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

**Motion—M/S** Whitebread/Merhar—Carried 7-0—To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting as presented.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Naya Lee Chang, Mountain View resident and student, updated the Visual Arts Committee on the El Camino Real Bell Intervention concept art proposal and grant application, and she asked the Committee to provide feedback on how to get the City Council aware of her project and grant application.

5. **UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS**—None.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Staff stated that there are no new updates to the 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), and that construction and planning for upcoming construction continue. Vice Chair Merhar asked when the Transit Center Grade Separation project will be started. Staff commented that the City Council will be reviewing the project in January and will provide guidance on how to proceed.

No public comment.

6.2 **2024 CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS JURY**

Staff presented the results of the 2024 Center for the Performing Arts jurying and requested that the Committee choose six artists with two alternates for the six openings available in 2024 and early 2025. The Committee discussed the results, including the possibility to include a seventh artist for display.

Chair Cupp made a motion to direct staff to request that the Center for the Performing Arts adjust the duration of the displays to allow for a seventh artist (instead of six), with two alternates.

**Motion**—M/S Cupp/Thomas—Carried 7-0—Staff to request the Center for the Performing Arts adjust the duration of the displays to allow for a seventh artist, with two alternates, as listed below:

1. Honarmand, Kiana
2. Ekman, Nina K
3. Bennett, Elizabeth
4. Bowers, George-Ann

5. Newman, S
6. Huet, Gloria
7. Mukhina Rumyantseva, Elena
8. (ALTERNATE) Wylde, Nanette
9. (ALTERNATE) Lucas, Paloma

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 CASTRO INTERIM PEDESTRIAN MALL STREET TREATMENT CONCEPTS

Aruna Bodduna, Transportation Planner, introduced the Castro Interim Pedestrian Mall Street Treatment project and the consultants from Gehl who helped create the concepts. Gehl consultants Sofie Kvist and Ramzy Bejjani presented the four street treatment concepts shown in the staff memo and asked the Committee members to discuss their preference out of the four concepts and to provide feedback on the proposed designs. The Committee discussed their preferences and desired modifications.

**Public Comment:** Pamela Baird, Mountain View resident and Downtown Committee Member, commented that she liked the ribbon concept because it shows more movement. David Heine, Mountain View resident, commented that the concept should make downtown a more walkable space; he likes the ribbon concept but would like to see more coverage.

**Motion—M/S** Cupp/Sakols—Carried 6-1; Bryant no— To approve the ribbon concept with more coverage (up to 70%) by expanding the ribbon widths.

**Motion—M/S** Cupp/Thomson—Carried 7-0—To approve the design with the colors as proposed.

**Motion—M/S** Cupp/Rathbum—Carried 6-1; Thomson no—To recommend that the City use the Streetbond Water Based Pavement Coating instead of the Acrylic Asphalt Paint so that the treatment can be power-washed.

### 7.2 ELECTION PROCESS FOR 2024 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Staff informed the Visual Arts Committee members of the annual process to elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the upcoming year. Staff recommended that the Committee nominate, or self-nominate, the Vice Chair, and then nominate the Chair.

No public comment.

Chair Cupp nominated Regina Sakols to serve as the Vice Chair.

**Motion**—M/S Cupp/Bryant—Carried 7-0—Regina Sakols to serve as Vice Chair. Vice Chair Sakols nominated Susi Merhar to serve as Chair.

**Motion**—M/S Sakols/Bryant—Carried 7-0—Susi Merhar to serve as Chair.

### 7.3 MURALS MEMORANDUM

Staff provided an informational update to clarify and respond to a request by the Committee to discuss permit requirements for murals. Vice Chair Sakols asked about the permit for a mural cover, and staff responded that the Planning staff look to see if the mural is an advertisement, but if it is not an advertisement, they do not review permits for murals for their design or speech. Committee member Cupp asked staff if the City makes an artist pay for the permit if the City is the one to commission the art; staff commented that building permits, when applicable, are paid by the artist.

## 8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee member Bryant provided an informational update on a proposal by Greystar to reuse art in a mixed-use development at the vacant Chase Bank building at 749 El Camino Real.

Committee member Bryant requested to discuss the Center for the Performing Arts jurying process at an upcoming meeting.

Staff shared information on a mural festival held in Sand City.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_.