

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
Point Molate Conference Room
Richmond, CA 94804

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Michelle Baker, Jenny Balisle (Vice Chair), Gretchen Borg-Hillstead, Linda Kalin, and Phillip Mehas (Chair)

Absent: None [Two Positions Vacant]

Staff: Wylendia Eastman, Administrative Librarian
Katy Curl, Library & Cultural Services Director

Guests: Cordell Hindler, Doug Giffin, and Maria Sammar Abu Issa

1. Chair Phillip Mehas called the regular meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to order at 7:00 P.M., conducted Roll Call, and welcomed Linda Kalin whose term had been extended for 90 days.

2. Agenda Review and Acceptance

On motion by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, seconded by Vice Chair Balisle and carried unanimously to accept the agenda, as submitted.

3. Minutes from the October 8, 2019 Meeting

Katy Curl, Library & Cultural Services Director, advised that there were no minutes available for the October 8, 2019 meeting, although those minutes were expected at the next meeting.

A discussion developed on the funds that had been available but were no longer available for a transcriptionist to prepare minutes, and while the recordings of the meetings were available, given the PAAC's charge for public art and the inability of many to listen to two hours of recording to learn of the action of each meeting there was a desire to hire someone to prepare action minutes.

On motion by Chair Mehas, second by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead to continue the minutes of October 8, 2019 to the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, invited everyone to *It's a Wonderful Life*, a radio play being presented on December 13, 14 and 15.

Mr. Hindler also invited everyone to attend the Council of Industries monthly luncheon on December 18 from 12:00 to 1:30 P.M. at the Hotel Mac.

5. Maria Sammar Abu Issa, Studio Bondy Architecture Re: Hilltop Mall Project Presentation

Doug Giffin, Campus LLC and Maria Sammar Abu Issa, Studio Bondy Architecture, presented the public art project for the Mechanic's Bank Adaptive Reuse Project; described the ongoing renovations and highlighted the public art project at the corner of Klose Way and Blume Drive, an aluminum cutout of children at play in colors consistent with the palette of the building. The school would be complete by the end of summer. They responded to questions about colors, landscaping and maintenance, and the anti-graffiti coating. Mr. Giffin advised that he had not been aware of the one percent for public art requirement prior to the Planning Commission's approval of the project.

6. Planning Department Meeting with Lina Velasco

Vice Chair Balisle highlighted the meeting with Lina Velasco of the Planning Division to finalize the Public Art in Private Development Fact Sheet and application form, identified the refinements that had been made, and reported that a final version was anticipated by January 2020.

PAAC questions related to projects that were being developed in multiple phases and how the public art requirement would be addressed in the forms. The PAAC requested that the actual building development cost be identified on the form along with an estimate for each phase prior to PAAC signoff. The item was to return next month.

7. PAAC Liaisons to Private Development Projects Update

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead reported she would be meeting with RYSE in January.

8. Status Report of Future CIP/Private Development Projects

Wylendia Eastman reported that the Bay Area Rescue Mission project had been approved by the Planning Commission and the building development cost would determine the one percent for public art allocation.

Ms. Eastman noted the difficulties of gathering information and referenced a disconnect between the Planning Commission and the PAAC and the need to communicate better with the Planning Division and the Design Review Board (DRB), with a clarification of the responsibilities of the PAAC.

Chair Mehas advised that was why PAAC members had met with Ms. Velasco. He and Vice Chair Balisle would attend DRB meetings to address that concern.

9. Update City Website

Committee Member Baker described the ongoing efforts to update the webpage before and after Michelle Seville's departure and Committee Member Kalin described the conflict with the format of the document proposed as a webpage and the IT Department along with the PAAC's inability to directly communicate with the IT Department. It was recommended that Committee Member Baker provide both the Word document and the PDF document to the IT Department which could then choose which was easiest for its use.

10. PAAC Recruitment

Chair Mehas reported he had been advised by Dominique in the Mayor's Office that only one application had been submitted for the PAAC, that application was incomplete, and she would contact those who had applied for the RACC [Richmond Arts & Culture Commission] to see if there was interest in the PAAC.

The PAAC emphasized the need to resolve the term limit issue, and recommended that the differences between the PAAC and the RACC be made clear to applicants.

Chair Mehas recommended attending the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC) to promote the recruitment for the PAAC and to distribute a sheet of RACC/PAAC definitions along with applications at that time.

11. Richmond Arts & Culture Commission Update

Vice Chair Balisle highlighted the status of RACC activities related to the Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) mini-grants and the difficulties related to the lack of an Arts & Culture Manager. There had also been questions as to the status of the Hacienda Mural.

12. City Manager Meeting and Infrastructure Update

With respect to the infrastructure update and the City's new organization chart, Ms. Curl described the process to approve the new chart and identified the changes proposed by the new chart.

The PAAC discussed the changes and expressed hope that the PAAC and RACC would function in conjunction with each other under the Arts & Cultural Division, although given the association with the Planning Division and the one percent for public art in private development requirement, having the PAAC be under the Planning Division made sense as long as there was coordination with the RACC.

13. Director's Report

With respect to filling the Arts & Culture Manager position, Ms. Curl stated that interviews would be the next step.

Chair Mehas expressed concern that the replacement process for the Arts & Culture Manager had not moved forward nor had the issue with respect to PAAC term limits and an inability of PAAC members to reapply for membership.

14. Next Steps

Committee Member Baker stated she would be the point of contact for Ms. Velasco while Vice Chair Balisle was absent, and she would send Ms. Curl the Word and PDF documents for the website; Chair Balisle advised that she and Committee Member Baker had worked on the document during the meeting and would send it to Ms. Velasco, would attend the DRB tomorrow night, and then attend the meeting of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council; Chair Mehas would attend the two meetings and get help from other departments for input; Committee Member Borg-Hillstead would work with RYSE and send information to Rosalie Fay Barnes at the RACC about why the Hacienda Mural had not been completed; and Committee Member Kalin would continue to attend PAAC meetings until a new member had been appointed.

15. Announcements

Vice Chair Balisle announced that she was part of an exhibit at the Richmond Art Center scheduled for January 25, along with some NPA recipients and local artists. She noted that Michele Seville was the Interim Director of the Richmond Art Center.

Cordell Hindler invited everyone to the Contra Costa Mayors Conference on January 9 hosted by the City of Pinole.

Chair Mehas reminded everyone of the Mechanic's Bank Christmas party.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 P.M. to the next meeting on January 14, 2020.