

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
Point Molate Conference Room
Richmond, CA 94804

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Michelle Baker, Jenny Balisle (Vice Chair), Tom Herriman,
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, and Deborah Dyer

1. Chair Phillip Mehas called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and conducted Roll Call.

2. Agenda Review and Acceptance

While no motion was taken, by consensus the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) moved Item 13 up on the agenda as Item 6, moved Item 11 up as Item 9, and renumbered the rest of the agenda accordingly.

3. Minutes from the October 8, 2019 and December 10, 2019 Meetings

Katy Curl, Library & Cultural Services Director, reported that the minutes for the December 10, 2019 meeting were not available.

On motion by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, seconded by Committee Member Kalin, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting, as submitted.

4. Public Comment

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, noted his understanding of the City Council's efforts to conduct recruitment for PAAC members; described his support for the City's new organizational chart and the possibility that Deputy City Managers could, in the future, occasionally attend PAAC meetings; and expressed his hope the issue of a transcriptionist for PAAC meetings would be resolved so that PAAC minutes would become available.

5. Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities for City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Ms. Curl stated that the Mayor's Office had indicated that the City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Manual had apparently never been adopted as an official document. She described how the manual had been used in the past; her role; the lines of communication and responsibility related to the PAAC and the RACC [Richmond Arts & Culture Commission], individually and collectively; and her request for patience by all involved pending the replacement of the Arts & Culture Manager.

6. Update on Current Projects

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, as liaison to the RYSE Center Expansion, highlighted the proposed project, the suggestions she had offered, and the questions from RYSE related to its \$26,000 private development public art project.

On the review of RYSE's project, the PAAC recommended a realignment of the bike path on the other side of Mechanic's Bank in front of RYSE; and given that landscape architects would not qualify for the one percent requirement unless the landscaping was designed by the artist, recommended that the artist become involved with the landscaper to facilitate or fabricate the artist's product.

7. Report on Website Update

Ms. Curl reported that Christopher Larson, the new full-time Librarian, had placed the Public Art Brochure on the website, had removed a couple of broken links and updated contacts, and was set to keep the site updated.

Committee Member Baker explained that all the webpages regarding art in Richmond needed overhaul as well and the PAAC had discussed the ongoing efforts to upgrade and update the information presented, particularly with respect to the Public Art Brochure and the public Artists Roster.

The PAAC recommended a link from the PAAC/RACC websites to the Planning Division to facilitate the one percent for public art requirement, and requested that the item be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Vice Chair Balisle acknowledged that the City's structure did not provide what needed to be done to implement the one percent requirement but emphasized the importance of the Artists Roster for developers, which was consistent with other cities. She stated the PAAC had attempted to create solutions that were free to avoid overburdening staff, although the City would ultimately have to accept that burden.

8. Report on Existing/Future CIP Projects

Wylendia Eastman reported that the John Toki project had been approved by the City Council. She also explained that she had made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to obtain information from the applicant for the SPARC project.

The PAAC recommended that staff place the project on hold and place the burden on the applicant to provide the necessary information. The PAAC also discussed with Ms. Curl the particular projects that could be pursued through the one percent private development ordinance.

Ms. Curl reported that she would present the status of all ongoing projects at the next meeting.

9. Update on Private Development Projects

Ms. Curl advised that she would set up an interview panel with Lina Velasco from the Planning Division for the private development projects and referred to the current pool of candidates for that panel.

10. Update on Arts & Culture Manager Position

PAAC members expressed concern that the Arts & Culture Manager position had not yet been filled.

11. Discussion of PAAC Term Limits, Defining Ordinance/Resolution

Committee Member Kalin referred to the issue with respect to potential four-year term limits for PAAC members that were not commensurate with the term limits of other commissions where potential eight-year terms had been provided. Efforts had been undertaken to get the term limits changed, initially through the Policies & Procedures document, and later through a draft ordinance to address a number of issues with respect to the PAAC and the RACC.

Committee Member Kalin presented the draft ordinance modeled on the Design Review Board (DRB), an ordinance drafted by Everett Jenkins from the City Attorney's Office, and distributed a version of that ordinance called the PAB (Public Art Board) with her comments. She pointed out some of her concerns with Mr. Jenkins' version of the ordinance and urged that her comments be presented to the new Arts & Culture Manager, when selected. She added that the issues with respect to the PAAC and the RACC would have to be addressed at the same time.

12. Status of SPARC Contract and Project

Vice Chair Balisle explained that Ms. Velasco was on vacation. She hoped the SPARC contract and project could be completed prior to the end of her term.

13. Set up Meeting with DRB

Chair Mehas explained that the PAAC had been coordinating with the DRB given that there had been a gap from when the one percent private development requirement had been enacted and when the PAAC had been apprised of projects that qualified for that requirement, which mandated PAAC approval.

14. Staff Report

Ms. Curl highlighted the process and effort to make sure that the Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) grant process through the RACC proceeded smoothly, particularly with respect to the business license requirement, with a recommended \$10,000 limit for any grants, to be submitted to the City Council for approval in February. She also reported she would like to use some budget savings to set aside for an assistant prior to budget discussions.

15. Next Steps

Committee Member Baker would send Ms. Curl an email of the links and identified corrections to the website; Committee Member Kalin had termed out and wished everyone well on her last meeting; Vice Chair Balisle would contact Ms. Velasco about the Planning Checklist and facilitate a meeting with the DRB; Chair Mehas had missed the prior meeting of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council and verified with Mr. Hindler that the next meeting had been scheduled for February 10 in the City Council Chambers; and Committee Member Herriman announced that his next concert had been sold out.

16. Announcements

Cordell Hinder invited everyone to the Council of Industries free luncheon scheduled for January 15 at Hotel Mac; and the Contra Costa Mayors Conference scheduled for February 6 would be hosted by the City of Pittsburg at the California Theatre.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M. to the next meeting on February 11, 2020.