

DRAFT
Minutes of the Regular Public Art Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2007
Conference Room 360, City Hall

CONVENE: 7:10 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL: Chair Huston, Vice-Chair Lee, and Commissioners Rosenberg Arrants, and Wolfe

Commissioners Rosenberg and Lee were absent

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Thomas, Planning Services Manager; Tony Ebster, Recording Secretary

2. MINUTES: Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2007 and September 27, 2007

Continued to the meeting of November 29, 2007

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION:

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4-A. Chair Huston brought up the on-site public art and the memo and felt that it was a misnomer. She referred to the memo and what it says about the Commission and that they are being called upon to apply the funds available to public art and they need not apply it to a specific piece or location, its wide open. She mentioned the Alameda Municipal Code and the section that says that money left over after administrative fees be distributed to the City for on-site public art. She also mentioned that the amount available as of September 2007 is approximately \$45,295. She read the memo and suggested that the annual plan be amended to include that the money be spent or applied to the purchase or expenses of public art in Alameda. She proposed a movement to amend the annual plan include a line item to apply the available funds to public art within the next year. She thinks that they should not name the number but rather the source.

Mr. Arrants asked about the percentages

Ms. Huston clarified that since the funds for administrative duties be spent on art since it had not been used.

Mr. Wolfe talked about the specific locations that could have an impact on Park and Webster Streets. He wanted to designate the money to art at the tube. He feels that it is critical that they place art at the entries to the tubes and feels that it would benefit the community if they could make the association with culture upon entering the city.

Ms. Huston didn't disagree.

Mr. Thomas clarified what was happening at the exit of the Webster tube.

Mr. Wolfe asked how it would fit into the program.

Mr. Thomas said that it was to be designated as a high priority project.

Ms. Huston said that one way or another they need to spend the money. She is not sure that \$45,000 is enough to provide art for that location and feels that they could spend the money faster than when the project is going to be finished. She wants to put it on the agenda for discussion. She feels that the scale of the art would have to be huge to compete with the surrounding area.

Mr. Thomas stated that the plans are very detailed and are finalized. He said that the two big issues are the timing and that the developer has committed \$300,000 for the public art requirement.

Ms. Huston wants to put spending the money on the annual plan.

Mr. Wolfe wants to put spending the money on the plan with a specific site, the exit of the tube.

Mr. Arrants wanted clarify what the tube was and how it was going to change in the future.

Mr. Thomas helped him visualize the future project.

Ms. Huston is ready for some art to be out. They don't know what \$45,000 will buy. She also wanted to know what they others thought. She doesn't need to commit to a site.

Mr. Wolfe feels that they need to move in a direction that will allow them to use the money.

Ms. Huston would support the discussion if the other commissioners were there.

Mr. Arrants asked if there was an objection to talking about it at the next meeting.

Ms. Huston felt that spending the money in the fund was not an urgent issue.

Mr. Thomas responded by saying that if they wanted to split the discussion, approve the expenditures, send it to City Council and let them know that they are talking about it.

Ms. Huston proposed a motion that they add to the annual plan the expenditure of funds for public art in the coming year with specific considerations of the Neptune Park and the Webster tube exit. She also wanted to propose an Ad Hoc Committee for the further consider the phrasing and crafting of the cultural arts grant.

Mr. Thomas stated that the intent of the committee was to have the workshop and work independently to create information and put it together for presentation to the full Art Commission.

Ms. Huston was confused on the subcommittee and how many members of the commission could be involved.

5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

None

6. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm to the special workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Biggs, Secretary
Public Art Commission