

City of Santa Rosa
Art in Public Places Committee
Minutes – August 3, 2009

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Evans at 3:30 p.m. at the Steele Lane Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.
2. Roll Call
Present: Allen, Anderson, Charnofsky, Curiel-Larios, Evans, LaBerge, Rabinowitsh, Richardson
Absent: Fisher, Flock, Gorin, Jang-Poulsen, Sawyer
3. Public Comments – None
4. Approval of Minutes
The July 6, 2009, minutes were accepted as written.
5. Chairperson’s Comments/Announcements –Evans commented that during a trip to Missoula, Montana, he saw how a Street Performer Program can be successful. Aaron Milligan-Green was present to share his ongoing commitment to see the city’s noise ordinance addressed regarding Street Performers and “Ok to Play” areas. He also announced his “Renegade Art Revival” event as a reaction to the noise ordinance. The event is to take place on August 8.
6. Scheduled Items Presented for Possible Decisions at this Meeting

6.1 Possible Loan of Burwell Pieces

Richardson introduced the proposal to pursue placing one or more sculptures by local artist Riis Burwell at various sites in Santa Rosa. Burwell is looking for a site for up to three sculpture pieces (“Bird”, “Cloud Totem I” and Synchronetic Variation 3”) and is willing to place them in a downtown area on a temporary basis. Matheny-Schuster presented a brief slide show of a few possible locations with images showing the sculptures at the different sites. The locations include the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens fountain (inactive) at the corner of Sonoma and Santa Rosa Avenues; the triangle of land at Hendley, Maple and Oak Streets. The Committee agreed that cost estimates of the transportation and installation should be available before any action is taken, however, the proposal was unanimously supported. Staff was directed to contact the artist and work up expected costs.

6.2 Fourth Street Medical Building Partnership

Richardson introduced the request by the Fourth Street Medical Building Partnership to use the art in lieu fees already paid to the city to now install artwork on their property. Ruth Skidmore, CEO of the medical association provided the history of their original

plan to refurbish an existing piece of art that was already on the building site. In processing this original proposal, staff became concerned as to whether using pre-existing art fulfills the art obligation. During this time, the original artwork was stolen. Skidmore presented their new proposal for art on their site using the previously collected in lieu fees. It was discussed that this would not follow the Public Art in Private Development procedures, and policy issues were raised including whether or not pre-existing artwork qualifies for the policy. Several options were offered, including denying the request; agreeing to hold an Art in Public Places organized “Call for Art” to find an appropriate sculpture for the site; and approving the use of the previously collected in lieu fees for this proposal due to the unique situation with this particular development.

A motion was made by LaBerge and seconded by Charnofsky to review the Public Art in Private Development Policy as to whether pre-existing art fulfills the art obligation. Motion passed unanimously by those present.

A motion was made by LaBerge and seconded by Allen to make a non-precedential, one-time exception to allow the previously collected in lieu fees to be applied towards the new proposal, recognizing that the applicant was in compliance with the policy. Motion passed 4-2 with one abstention. (Charnofsky and Anderson voting NO, Rabinowitsh abstaining)

6.3 The “Human Chess Game”

Melissa Gordon presented a project seeking funding and/or city support. The “Human Chess Game” will take place on three consecutive Sundays in Courthouse Square during the ArtsSonoma-Beyond Your Expectations, a “Fringe Style” festival occurring August 29 – October 4, 2009. The event will use improve actors as the chess pieces, and is a collaboration with Chess for Kids. Staff offered to have the Special Event Permit for this project waived, and the committee offered other sponsorship and funding ideas.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Art in Public Places Committee is scheduled on Monday, September 7, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. at the Steele Lane Community Center in Santa Rosa, CA.

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