

City of Santa Rosa
Art in Public Places Committee Meeting
June 6, 2011- Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee member Bartley, acting as committee chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40pm at the Steele Lane Community Center in Santa Rosa, CA.

2. Roll Call

Present: Anderson, Bartley, Charnofsky, Flock, Kaufman, Kennedy, Lott
Absent: Curiel-Larios, Duggan, Rabinowitsh, Richardson, Vas Dupre

3. Public Comments- none

4. Approval of Minutes- May 2, 2011

Corrections noted- Flock requested that the future agenda item concerning placement of public art be considered in general, and not limited to Luther Burbank Home & Gardens. Minutes approved as corrected.

5. Comments and Announcements

Kennedy announced that she will be attending the Town Hall Meetings, Focus Groups, and other sessions dedicated to the planning of the Southeast Greenway, and is interested in making public art a priority in the planning and design process.

5.1 Public Art in New York City

Kennedy presented a slide show of public art and community spaces in New York. She included a brief discussion on how bike lanes are incorporated safely into busy city streets; presented examples of community gathering spaces that include plantings and benches; and shared numerous forms of public art from murals to large scale sculptures. Highlights included the newly developed High Line Park, located above the city streets on an elevated 1930's freight rail line, and LentSpace, both of which combine community space, community gardens and art.

6. Scheduled Items Presented for Possible Decisions at this Meeting

6.1 Transit Mall Artwork Designs

Arts Coordinator Tara Matheny-Schuster presented revised designs for the art components of the Transit Mall renovation. Leticia Huerta was chosen by a selection panel over a year ago to design two main components, including laser-cut metal screens for the parking garage and bus shelters. Revised designs for the garage screens were presented at the meeting, and included rose patterns with some tree branches. New designs using pavers in the walkways were also presented. In addition, Artstart was hired to design and fabricate a large scale tile mural, consisting of oak tree branches set against a blue sky. They will be painting and firing their own tiles. Designs for all of these elements were presented for feedback and approval.

While the committee was supportive of the oak tree mural design, they had some concerns with the combination of the oak tree branches and the rose design. It was recommended that the transition from the mural to the screens be looked at, and possibly no transition is needed at all given the set back from the mural wall to the garage wall. It was also suggested that the surface treatment of the metal screens be considered, given the limited contrast and lighting in that location. Either a polished or colored surface was recommended to provide more contrast and visibility. Similarly, the committee expressed concern over the flooring designs using pavers. Some members felt that adding an additional design element was too much and the designs would get lost. Others felt that it would be nice to add some color to the area by using a rose design, perhaps a bit more dispersed than the one shown in the presentation.

A motion was made by Flock and seconded by Lott to approve the artwork designs considering the above mentioned suggestions and feedback. Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Reports & Updates

a) 9th Street Undercrossing

Matheny-Schuster reported that the final application to Caltrans for the encroachment permit was submitted last month, with a signed resolution from city council. As soon as the permit is issued, work can begin on the mural.

b) Civic Artwalk Changes

Matheny-Schuster gave an updated on the status of artworks on loan. The current loan period is due to expire in August for several pieces, and anticipated grant funding for a new rotation was not received. It is possible that pieces will be replaced one-by-one as resources allow. In addition, the Robert Ellison piece "Renaissance" in Courthouse Square is due to be returned to the artist in July.

7. Adjournment

Future agenda items include: a discussion of Literary Arts in Santa Rosa; sites and site preparation for public art in Santa Rosa. Due to the July 4th Holiday, the next meeting of the Art in Public Places Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2011 at 3:30pm at the Steele Lane Community Center in Santa Rosa, CA. Meeting was adjourned at 4:56PM.