

APPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Meeting of the Public Art Committee (PAC)
Date of Meeting: Monday, June 16, 2008
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Meeting Room, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd.

I. Call to Order Vice Chair McGuire convened the Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance Vice Chair McGuire led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call Committee Members Present: Chair Foulk, Vice Chair McGuire, Butler, Ettinger, Hays, Cherry, Navarro, Tsuei, Moss, Rabe, Voellger. Ms. Navarro excused herself at 7:25 p.m.

Committee Alternate Absent: Strauss

City Staff Present: Economic Development Manager, Diana Whitecar, Parks and Recreation Director Bonnie Greiner

IV. Seating of Alternates None.

V. Approval of Agenda **MOTION** to approve the agenda dated June 16, 2008.
M/S: Hays/Voellger Ayes: Unanimous

VI. Approval of Minutes No minutes were presented at this meeting.

VII. Public Forum Frank De Schmidt was in attendance.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

Ms. Whitecar indicated that the agenda for the meeting was inadvertently sent to the Economic Development Commission. Most committee members indicated that they did receive the email of the agenda.

Ms. Greiner announced the Summer Recreation programs including Music in the Park and the July 4th celebration.

IX. Old Business

1. Library Art

1. South Tower: Ms. Whitecar announced that a contract with Cork Marcheschi would be presented to the City Council for their action on June 17th and that it was likely that the art would be installed prior to the Library opening. In response to a question from Vice Chair McGuire, Ms. Whitecar indicated that Mr. Marcheschi understood the limitations accessing the tower and would not interfere with construction or library operations during the installation.

2. Plaza: Committee members discussed the City Council Subcommittee decision to not proceed with the Plaza art until the Library is open. Chair Foulk indicated that by waiting to proceed,

there may be additional funds for the art. Both he and Ms. Moss indicated an interest to start the recruitment process over for the plaza art.

No action was taken on this item.

2. Cookbook Update

Committee members recognized that the profit from the sale of the books was \$100. They concurred with staff that they would respond to a schedule to sell cookbooks at the Chamber of Commerce “Celebrate Milpitas” festival August 16th and 17th.

Note. Receipt. File.

3. Art in the Park

Committee members indicated they received copies of the Request for Qualifications. Staff advised the Committee of other organizations that received the RFQ and of the publication of the notice in The Milpitas Post and the TCV Milpitas. Committee members were encouraged to distribute the RFQ as well. The Committee agreed on Tuesday, July 29th at the Senior Center on Abel Street for the next Pinewood Park Neighborhood meeting. In response to a question from Ms. Cherry, staff indicated that mailed notices would be sent for the meeting. Ms. Cherry stated that she would get a list of those attending the first neighborhood meeting to staff.

Other than setting the date for the next neighborhood meeting, no other action was taken.

4. Reconfiguration of the Public Arts Committee and Public Arts Master Plan.

There was extensive discussion of the staff proposal to disband the Public Arts Committee per the attached DRAFT memo.

Ms. Moss asked who the project staff would be involved in selecting art. Together with Ms. Hays and Vice Chair McGuire, Ms. Moss expressed serious concern about not including artists or anyone with an art background making decisions on public art. Staff indicated that the staff referred to in the memo was staff assigned to the individual advisory commissions and those project staff assigned to the project implementation.

Ms. Moss questioned the availability of funds for repair, maintenance and transportation of relocating the Cartwheel Kids to the new library. Staff clarified that these costs were included in the \$20,000 estimate.

Ms. Rabe advocated community involvement in the public art selection process and that she supported the proposal from staff. In response to questions, Ms. Whitecar clarified the role of the Arts Commission, in the staff proposal, was to remain as in its current configuration with its existing work program.

Ms. Ettinger asked if the Public Arts Manual included outreach to the City Commissions as part of the public art policy. Staff indicated that public outreach, including City Commissions, was part of the public art policy manual approved by the City Council.

Ms. Hays indicated that her interest was to create as much public art throughout the City as possible and that this was a motivator for her to become part of the Arts Commission. She expressed interest in expanding the program to the private sector to create more art and that it would be a disservice to the City's economic development to not have public art. She asked how the BART Art would be addressed without a Public Arts Committee. Ms. Whitecar responded that the Committee had recommended and the City Council approved the two artists for the future BART Station. Ms. Cherry suggested that if future art or changes to the artists selected occurred, that it would be handled similarly to the way that the art selection for the VTA Stations were.

Ms. Rabe recalled that with the formation of the Public Arts Committee that there was no real direction in how the PAC was to proceed. She reiterated her interest that the public process for art will be enhanced working with the neighborhoods with neighbors and that the City currently has advisory groups to give advice on art. She suggested that members of other commissions, such as Sister Cities and the Senior Advisory Commission, have a great communication with their constituencies and this will ensure that the public will be involved in future public art processes.

Mr. Voellger agreed that the public art policy included public outreach, but wanted the staff to spell out the expectations of the Milpitas Alliance for the Arts (MAFTA) in any future public art policies or programs.

In response to a question from Ms. Moss, several Committee members offered insight into why the Public Arts Commission was formed. Ms. Rabe recalled that the PAC was the idea of Tom Wilson, the former City Manager, in response to how to manage the funds being assigned to public art as part of a Percent for Art program.

Mr. Tsuei commented that he was in Lafayette recently representing an artist interested in a public art project. He explained that Lafayette's Public Art group has five members presenting different stakeholder groups and that they will include someone representing the group proposing a specific project proposal. He further commented that the decisions made on the Phantom Art Gallery did not include the public as a larger group making these decisions could be more chaotic.

Mr. Foulk asked who would have oversight of the public art fund for the future. He wants to make sure that there is as much money as possible for public arts and that the Arts Commission should have some role in the decision making for the use of public art funds. He expressed strong concern – and other Committee members agreed – that if the public art funds were not spent, they the Council might find other ways to use the funds.

Ms. Rabe reminded the Committee that they only advised the City Council, that they Council always retained the final decision on public art.

Ms. Ettinger expressed concern that every Commission making decision on public art would be starting anew each time. Ms. Hays added concern that public art would fall through the cracks of other Commission's work programs, especially if there was not one body or person assigned to the tasks.

Ms. McGuire asked how involved other commissions would want to be in a public art selection process and stated that the Arts Commission should have a role. Ms. Whitecar clarified that staff recommended retaining the public art policies in place, so that each commission and staff assigned to the commission would be required to follow the public process.

Ms. Rabe indicated that the Art in the Parks projects did not necessarily have one person in charge and that they were successful projects.

Mr. Voellger reflected that two meetings with two groups on public art was a waste of staff time and not very productive. He questioned what would happen with the future art that had not been addressed in the staff recommendation. Ms. Hays indicated that she did not like having to attend two meetings a month as well.

Mr. Foulk suggested that funds for promoting and selecting art by other commission would have to come to the Arts Commission for approval. He stated that he does not want to give up the Arts Commission control of public art and that the Commission has a hand in public art recommendations to the City Council.

Mr. Tsuei supported the ideas that if a committed group of people for art are not actively part of the decision making process, then the art selected could be substandard.

Ms. Greiner summarized the comments from the PAC into the following points:

- Include and provide a Public Process to allow Special Interest groups to review and aid in projects
- The Promotion of Art is critical and should not be lost in a reorganization;
- Community Decisions-Out Reach programs similar to Art in your Park with the neighborhoods should be included in any public art project;
- Outreach as described above is to be included in the Public Art Policy
- Reorganization should clearly define and address future art projects at all levels, parks, buildings, facilities, general areas, etc....

- Money- who is responsible for the for tracking and handling public art funds;
- Solicit matching funds with private ventures
- There should be a Master Plan for Public Art not associated with commissions, facility, building, etc;
- Keep Arts Commission as originally started with the following new name “Public Art Commission” to include, promote, select and approval of public art.

Discussion concluded that staff would be going to the City Council in August with a recommendation that may include the discussion points.

7. Update on Moving the ‘Cartwheel Kids’ Sculpture

Ms. Moss expressed concern that she had not been asked to provide costs for maintenance and re-patina the artwork as part of the City staff proposal. She indicated that she would be happy to do so. Mr. Voellger indicated that he had voted against this previously as it seemed ludicrous to spend \$25,000 to move artwork that cost \$15,000 originally. Staff indicated that they were trying to create a budget so that the Committee’s recommendation to relocate the Cartwheel Kids to the Library could be included in the Public Arts Master Plan update. Ms McGuire and other committee members reminded staff that they supported the relocation to be handled by city staff, in-house, rather than the library contractor. Ms. Greiner stated that there would still be costs incurred if the relocation was handled by City staff. Committee members agreed, but indicated that they thought the cost would be less.

No Action was taken on this item.

Chair Foulk asked staff to please remind Committee members of the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 5th.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Diana Whitecar, Economic Development Manager

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Meeting of the Public Art Committee (PAC)
Date of Meeting: Monday, August 18, 2008
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Meeting Room, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd.

I. Call to Order Chair Foulk convened the Meeting at 6:41 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance Chair Foulk led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call Committee Members Present: Chair Foulk, Vice Chair McGuire, Ettinger, Hays, Cherry, Navarro, Tsuei, Moss, Rabe, Voellger and Alternate Strauss.
Council Liaison: Giordano
Excused Absent: Butler.
City Staff: Economic Development Manager, Diana Whitecar,

IV. Seating of Alternates Neither alternate was seated as there was a quorum. Sobhan Dutta was introduced and welcomed as the newly appointed Alternate 2.

V. Approval of Agenda **MOTION** to approve the agenda dated August 18, 2008.
M/S: Rabe/Voellger Ayes: Unanimous

VI. Approval of Minutes MOTION to approve minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting.
M/S: Voellger/Rabe. Ayes: Unanimous
MOTION to approve minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting.
M/S: Voellger/Rabe Ayes: Unanimous.

VII. Public Forum No speakers.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

Committee Member Voellger announced a fundraiser to benefit South Bay Kids at Fresh Choice on August 26th. He also announced the October 3rd Mystery Dinner sponsored by the Milpitas Alliance for the Arts. Funds raised would go towards Milpitas High School Band uniforms.

Committee Member Hays spoke about the art in public places throughout Kansas City, MO downtown. Committee members Tsuei, Navarro and McGuire talked about public art displays in other communities they visited. The Committee asked that this item be agendized for a future meeting.

Chair Foulk advised that during the meeting he would be more diligent about keeping track of speakers and asked that Committee members not speak out of turn and to be courteous to each other.

Committee member Moss announced that she has a show in Arizona and distributed flyers.

IX. Old Business

1. Library Art

South Tower: Staff Liaison Whitecar advised that the tower ceiling connections had been installed and that it is likely that the Marcheschi piece will be installed for the Library opening in January 2009.

No action was taken on this item.

2. Cookbook Update

Cookbooks were not sold at the Celebrate Milpitas! Festival. It was suggested that the cookbooks be sold at the Rotary Pumpkin Patch.

Note. Receipt. File.

3. Art in the Park

Committee Member Voellger presented a slide show of the three finalists that were selected at the second neighborhood meeting on July 31st. Models of the art proposals are due on September 15th. Committee members suggested that a picnic or an ice cream social in Pinewood Park be hosted to review the models with the neighborhood to try and encourage a good turnout.

Chair Foulk agreed to get a flyer announcing the event to the school for distribution. Committee member Navarro volunteered to make the flyer.

4. Public Art Program Reorganization.

Staff Liaison Whitecar thanked the Committee Members for taking the time to meet with her and identified some common threads she heard from Committee members. Committee member Voellger indicated that he believed there were two issues – a structural problem and philosophical differences and how to approach public art. Chair Foulk concurred that the structural problems exist regarding membership and meeting schedules and reiterated that the Council is the ultimate decision maker on public art decision.

Council Member Giordano indicated that the Council did not intend to disband the Public Art Committee (PAC), but rather to combine into one entity.

Several Committee members expressed a desire to have public art decisions under the purview of the Arts Commission, but acknowledged that the Arts Commission workload would be increased. Some noted that this would not address the structural issues.

Several members suggested that a separate meeting for the PAC would help address structural issues in terms of workload and meeting schedules.

Committee Member Rabe suggested an alternative PAC structure, see attached. She reviewed the proposal and it was decided, after much discussion, to take “straw” votes on the recommendations to come to consensus on continuing a PAC separate from the Arts Commission.

The first vote considered absorbing the PAC responsibilities into the Arts Commission. Three members voted to support this and the remaining 7 voting members agreed that PAC should be a blend as proposed by Committee member Rabe. The second straw vote considered retaining PAC in its current configuration and the vote was 3 to 7. A vote to retain PAC with fewer members resulted in three supporting and 7 opposing.

Discussion continued on the number of Arts Commissioners that would be a part of a reconfigured PAC as some Committee members expressed concern that the Arts Commission would not be adequately represented in public art decision making. The next vote considered how many Arts Commissioners were interested in participating on a public arts committee: four Commissioners so indicated.

After lengthy discussion the final vote was to recommend to the City Council a reconstituted Public Arts Commission consisting of 3 members of the Milpitas Alliance for the Arts, 3 Arts Commissioners, 2 rotating stakeholders (such as Library or Senior Center Advisory Commissioners) and one community artist at large. Seven Committee members supported this, one member abstained and three members did not support this. All members supported the proposal that the 3 Arts Commissioners would have voting rights.

The Committee acknowledged that this item warranted more discussion and some established guidelines (such as timed meeting agendas and keeping discussions to the item on the table for consideration), but that this recommendation needed to be forwarded to the City Council for its September 2nd meeting.

7. Update on Moving the ‘Cartwheel Kids’ Sculpture

After lengthy discussion, a motion was made to broach relocation to the Library grass lawn (in front of the historic building) with the City Council, but not until the new artwork for City Hall was decided upon. Several members voiced support to relocate the Cartwheel Kids to the Library Plaza but this was not considered in the motion. Committee member Navarro urged that the public input on the Library Plaza art not be “tossed out”. M/S: Ayes: Voellger, Cheery, Navarro, Foulk, Hayes, Ettinger. Nays: Rabe, Tsuei, Moss and McGuire.

Chair Foulk suggested that the Library Plaza Art and the BART Art be placed on a future agenda.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Whitecar, Economic Development Manager

Milpitas Arts Commission (MAC)

Membership: 7 members (1 of seven remains a school board member)
2 alternates

Members of MAC will apply via the standard application.

The Mayor will make appointments to the MAC with council concurrence.
Terms of service are governed by MAC bylaws.

The chair of the MAC would appoint two volunteer commissioners to sit on the PAC and report on specific projects to the MAC. These appointees would be nonvoting members of the Public Art Committee (PAC). These appointments would be on a rotating basis (term length to be decided).

MAC would continue to review and recommend the Cultural Arts Support Grants, interview and select artists to have shows in the phantom Art Gallery and future galleries as proposed by the library. MAC would jury temporary Art to hang in the Library (new); propose and promote art events for the community and support the work of the PAC.

Public Art Committee (PAC)

Membership: *3-voting representatives of the Milpitas Alliance for the Arts (MAFTA)
2-non voting rotating members of the MAC to be responsible to report to the MAC as projects move through the process of acquisitions of public art.
1(?)-non voting staff member- per project (The staff would vote only to break a tie)
1-voting community member with experience in public art
2- voting representatives per project from the commission committee or other group with a connection to the project (e.g. Senior Center would have 2 representatives from the Senior Advisory Committee).

The 3 MAFTA representatives would be the nucleus of the reorganized PAC. MAFTA would take the lead on introducing art and artists to the community (Members have proven experience)

MAFTA would be leaders in the selection of public art to be recommended for funding by the % for art ordinance.

As a courtesy PAC would represent the recommended public art proposals to the MAC for endorsement. There would be no discussion just and up or down vote.

GOAL
Quality Public Art
Representative of Milpitas

