UNAPPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Special Meeting of the Public Art Committee (PAC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, November 15, 2007
Place of Meeting: Milpitas Community Center, Conference Rooms 7/8, 457 E. Calaveras Blvd.

I. Call to Order
Chairperson Foulk called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m.

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

III. Roll Call
Committee Members Present: Butler, Cherry, Ettinger, Foulk, Hays, Lawson, McGuire, Moss, Ogle, Rabe, Voellger, and Alternate Tsuei (7:05 pm)

Committee Member Absent: Asif

City Staff Present: Economic Development Manager, Diana Whitecar, Public Services Assistant, Tirzah Cedillo

City Council Liaison Present: Council Member Giordano

IV. Seating of Alternates
None.

V. Approval of Agenda
MOTION to approve the agenda dated November 15, 2007.
M/S: Rabe/Hays Ayes: All

VI. Approval of Minutes
MOTION to approve the minutes of October 22, 2007.
M/S: Voellger/McGuire Ayes: All

VII. Public Forum
None.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence
Ms. Whitecar stated she had received a donation request from the Community Advisory Commission for holiday trees.

IX. New Business
1. Selection of Artists for the new Public Library Plaza and South Tower
The Public Art Committee has selected six artists for the Library Plaza and the Tower public art. The committee has presented the art proposals to the community, soliciting public comments. These comments have been summarized by the Library Art Advisor, Lynne Baer and will be presented to the PAC as part of the selection process.

Chairperson Foulk acknowledged the professionalism of the Library Art Advisor, Lynne Baer and stated his appreciation for the committee members who volunteered several hours to show the art to the public.

Ms. Lynne Baer, Library Art Advisor stated the process of the artwork selection would be a consensus of the decision and discussion of the Public Art Committee. She stated she didn’t have a specific count, but divided the artwork responses into groups of ‘plaza’ and ‘tower.’ She did have a stack of votes with the choice of ‘no’ artist and ‘no’ vote. The committee does have the option of not accepting any of the artists work. Over all the public response was an overwhelmingly positive. She feels the public responses have been pretty even so the decision really sits with the committee.
Ms. Lynne Baer, Library Art Advisor recommended a discussion for each artist to hear all comments. The first three discussions would be for the ‘plaza’ finalist artists, Ms. Diana Pumpelly Bates, Mr. Robert W. Ellison, and Mr. Brian Goggin.

**Discussion of Diana Pumpelly Bates**  
Selection of Plaza Artist  
The committee members responded to Ms. Pumpelly Bates artwork stating it’s majestic and beautiful. The drawbacks of the art piece were it was too modern, doesn’t relate to the library, it’s too overwhelming, obstructs library entrance, and the public won’t understand the ‘three muses’ concept.

**Discussion of Robert W. Ellison**  
Selection of Plaza Artist  
The committee members and the general public responded to Mr. Ellison’s artwork stating it’s whimsical and appropriate for the library. The drawbacks of the art piece included Committee Member Tsuei stating the art piece is very similar to the City of Dublin’s library art piece. Committee Member Voellger added the art piece looks like it’s just plopped down in front of the library, not an intricate part of the library. He suggested not considering this piece unless there were changes with the color and proportions.

Ms. Lynne Baer stated the committee could ask the artist to redesign.

**Discussion of Brian Goggin**  
Selection of Plaza Artist  
The committee members responded to Mr. Goggin’s art piece stating it’s modern, unique, and well thought out. The drawback of the art piece included safety issues.

Mr. David Schnee, Architect of Group 4 Architecture commented on all three ‘plaza’ artists stating the following:

a.) Robert W. Ellison  
- Art pieces block view of (3) picture windows in library.  
- The comparison to City of Dublin feels that we’re getting a ‘used’ idea.  
- The columns would be better if there were simple cylinder columns.

b.) Diana Pumpelly Bates  
- Likes the art piece, fitting the contemporary style of the library.  
- Scale of the art piece is a problem.  
- The general public may read the art piece wrong, but it could be understood as (3) pieces.  
- It’s his far second choice.

c.) Brian Goggin  
- Original.  
- Reflecting books is fitting to the library with lights & water.  
- Excellent materials.  
- Exciting and beautiful.  
- The art piece is not about an earthquake, but about something growing. Only if the artist could come up with a different ‘crack’ metaphor so the art piece doesn’t say, ‘earthquake.’
- Climbing and Skateboarding – materials to prevent.

Ms. Lynne Baer took votes from the committee members on the two artists in consideration for the library ‘plaza’ art: Ms. Diana Pumpelly Bates and Brian Goggin.

The finalist ‘plaza’ artist Mr. Brian Goggin who created the 'Terrapedia' art piece was voted on first. If chosen, the committee would speak to the artist about the safety issues and not creating an ‘earthquake’ effect to the art.
Voted Yes: Foulk, Lawson, Ogle, Tsuei, McGuire, Voellger, Cherry, Rabe

The finalist ‘plaza’ artist Ms. Diana Pumpelly Bates who created the stainless steel sculptures that includes a platform art piece was voted on second. Voted Yes: Ettinger, Hays, Butler, Lawson

Committee Member Voellger asked could an artist be addressed of any modification to safety after installation. Ms. Lynne Baer responded yes, but that would need to be included in the contract. Also, the committee would have to pay the artist for the adjustments.

Ms. Lynne Baer, Library Art Advisor recommended a discussion for each artist to hear all comments. The first three discussions would be for the ‘tower’ finalist artists, Ms. Rebeca Bollinger, Mr. Cork Marcheschi, and Ms. Amy Trachtenburg & Mr. Jeffrey Miller. She stated before the discussion of the ‘tower’ artists begins the public input was Ms. Bollinger received the majority of the votes, then Mr. Marcheschi and lastly the combined efforts of Ms. Trachtenburg & Mr. Miller.

Discussion of Rebeca Bollinger Selection of Tower Artist

The committee members responded to Ms. Bollinger’s art piece stating they liked the use of City of Milpitas images, and the variety of the images. The drawbacks of the art piece included lack of confidence during the presentation, lack of knowledge and experience, and concerned about the cleaning maintenance of the art piece.

Ms. Lynne Baer responded stating Ms. Bollinger doesn’t have the experience, but she would work (24) hours a day with experts. She’s not concerned about her work performance, no doubt.

Discussion of Cork Marcheschi Selection of Tower Artist

The committee members responded to Mr. Marcheschi’s art piece stating they liked the brightness and use of light, but favors Ms. Bollinger’s art piece.

Discussion of Amy Trachtenburg & Jeffrey Miller Selection of Tower Artist

The committee members responded to Ms. Trachtenburg and Mr. Miller’s art piece stating they liked the agriculture idea, the gold wall background. The drawbacks of the art piece included the colors presented, the way the pods hang.

Committee Member Rabe stated she attended a meeting on the library interior decorations, and feels the art piece from Ms. Trachtenburg & Mr. Miller would not go together. Ms. Lynne Baer responded the artist chosen would work with the architect and decorator on colors.

Mr. David Schnee, Architect of Group 4 Architecture commented on all three ‘tower’ artists stating the following:

a.) Cork Marcheschi
   - Too dimensional, and not much art and interpretation.

b.) Rebeca Bollinger
   - Feels it’s better than Mr. Marcheschi’s art piece.
   - Concerned that it’s too mobile like.
   - Likes the slow motion movement of the art piece.

c.) Amy Trachtenburg & Jeffrey Miller
- Understood the geometry of the space.
- The art piece theme went from agriculture to current.
- Felt the art piece fits the building the most.

The finalist ‘tower’ artist Ms. Rebeca Bollinger who created the slowly moving art piece called, ‘Slowly Moving Micro-Macro Milpitas Mashup.’ The art piece uses plexiglass, mirrored glass and dichrolam in a collage. The art piece was voted on first.

Voted Yes: Voellger, Ettinger, McGuire, Ogle, Butler, Lawson, Foulk, Hays, Rabe Moss

The finalist ‘tower’ artist Ms. Amy Trachtenburg and Mr. Jeffrey Miller who created the elements of seeds and pods from plastic coated steel wires that frame a gilded wall art piece was voted on second.

Voted Yes: Cherry, Tsuei

Per the majority vote for the Library ‘plaza’ artist, the artist chosen was Mr. Brian Goggin.

Per the majority vote for the Library ‘tower’ artist, the artist chosen was Ms. Rebeca Bollinger.

Ms. Whitecar stated now your recommendations would go to the Library Subcommittee on November 26th at 5:30pm. She’s requested Chairperson Foulk or Vice Chairperson Lawson to make the presentation with the artist to the Library Subcommittee at City Hall in the Committee Meeting room. On December 11th at 7:00pm the committee would make the artists recommendations to City Council. Staff would write the report, but wants the committee to present to the City Council, requests all committee members to attend the meeting as well. Committee Member Rabe stated she personally wants to speak to City Council and state we finished the library process as we promised. Ms. Whitecar stated she would have all the media; Channel 15, press conference with artists, The Milpitas Post, Tri-City Voice after the City Council makes their final decision.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m., to the scheduled meeting on November 26, 2007 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tirzah Cedillo
Public Services Assistant