



**CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE**

City Hall Council Chamber  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952

**MINUTES  
Thursday, April 27, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Vice Chair Smith stated that the Mary Fuller Chesney Estate Acquisitions discussion will be moved on the agenda.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Cheryl Coldiron, Christopher Smith, Ally Spongr, Anne Digges, Hannah Rizzo Simons

ABSENT: Melissa Abercombie

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

During **General Public Comment**, the public is invited to make comments on items of public interest that are within the City Council's subject matter jurisdiction and that are not listed on the current agenda.

Public comments are limited up to three minutes per person. Depending on the number of persons wishing to address the Council, time will be allocated in equal shares totaling no more than twenty minutes, subject to the Council's discretion (Cal. Gov't. Code §54954.3(a), Petaluma City Council Rules, Policies and Procedures, III).

1. General Public Comment – Spauling 4.27.23

Vice Chair Smith opened public comment.

Asked if there were any written public comments:

- Staff noted a letter regarding Black Lives Matter mural. Smith responded that the mural was meant to be temporary and not maintained by the City.
- Jason Barnett commented on the Black Lives Matter mural.

Vice Chair Smith closed public comment.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5. Mary Fuller McChesney Estate Acquisitions. Continued Committee discussion to consider acquiring artworks from Mary Fuller McChesney estate and recommended action for the Committee to recommend an outlined project budget for City Council approval. This discretionary

action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15303 (New Construction), and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

Public Art Specialist Ward presented the item and introduced Jean Sinella and Dennis Calabi who represent the estate.

Vice Chair Smith asked for clarifying questions of staff from the Committee.

There were no questions from Committee members.

Vice Chair Smith opened public comment.

No public comments made.

Vice Chair Smith closed the public comment period.

Vice Chair opened the item to comments:

- Vice Chair Smith commented in approval.
- Committee Member Digges asked clarifying questions.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded.
- Vice Chair Smith commented on associated costs and locations.

Vice Chair Smith requested comments from the Committee:

- Committee Member Digges agreed with Chair Abercrombie's suggestions.
- Committee Member Coldiron agreed with Committee.
- Calabi commented on estate availability.
- Vice Chair Smith directed staff to continue contact with Dennis Calabi and Jean Sinella.
- Vice Chair Smith asked clarifying details about estate.
- Calabi responded about artwork conditions and locations.
- Committee Member Coldiron commented about other artworks.
- Committee Member Spongr requested clarification on pricing.
- Calabi responded..
- Vice Chair Smith suggested creating an ad hoc committee work with Calabi and Sinella.
- Vice Chair Smith nominated Chair Abercrombie and volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee.
- Calabi made comments about work.
- Committee Member Digges asked about timeline.
- Calabi responded.

Vice Chair Smith opened the item for discussion of the budget.

- Committee Member Coldiron commented about Public Art Fund balance and asked staff about clarification.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded about status of Public Art Fund.
- Vice Chair Smith asked clarification about Public Art Fund.
- Committee Member Digges recommended \$100,000 project budget for City Council approval.

Motion to adopt the recommendation to the City Council to allow \$100,000 of the public art fund to fund artwork acquisitions and to contract for the installation, transportation and conservation from the Mary Fuller Chesney estate made by Coldiron, seconded by Smith.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Coldiron, Smith, Spong, Digges, Rizzo Simons

No: None

Absent: Abercombie

Recused: None

Public Art Specialist Ward suggested direction for the ad hoc subcommittee. Vice Chair Smith closed the item and suggested another change to the agenda.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Public Works Traffic Calming and Road Improvement Projects. Presentation by Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation Planner with City of Petaluma Public Works and Utilities, about upcoming opportunities for Public Works and the Public Art Program to collaborate on traffic calming and road improvement projects. This is a presentation item only. No discretionary action will be taken on this item; therefore, no CEQA finding is required to be made for this meeting item.

Public Art Specialist Ward introduced Bjorn Gripenburg, staff liaison to Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee. Bjorn Gripenburg presented item.

Vice Chair Smith requested for Committee questions.

- Committee Member Rizzo Simmons commented on materials.
- Bjorn Gripenburg responded about latex paint instead of thermoplastic in roadway projects.
- Committee Member Digges commented in support.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about process and responsibilities between Public Art Committee and Public Works Department.
- Committee Member Digges asked about the projected volume.
- Bjorn Gripenburg responded.
- Committee Member Rizzo commented about an “adopt a traffic circle” with community.
- Committee Member Digges asked clarification on insurance.
- Bjorn Gripenburg responded.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about community involvement.

- Vice Chair Smith commented to keep in mind PPAC for other projects.
- Public Art Specialist Ward suggested paying a fair wage for artists and their design work.

Vice Chair Smith opened public comment.

No public comment.

Vice Chair Smith closed public comment.

Vice Chair closed the item.

3. Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Public Art. Presentation on public art and cultural work by Ally Spongr, Public Art Committee member and Director of Public Art at the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. This is a presentation item only. No discretionary action will be taken on this item; therefore, no CEQA finding is required to be made for this meeting item.

Vice Chair Smith introduced the item and Committee Member Ally Spongr. Spongr presented on the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

Vice Chair Smith open and closed public comment.

Vice Chair Smith closed the item.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4. Approval of Minutes for the meetings of November 29, 2022, January 26, 2023 and February 23, 2023. Vice Chair Smith requested changes from the Committee. There were no changes, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6. Kenilworth Playground Public Art Project. Committee review the draft Request for Qualifications document to discuss project goals and selection criteria with recommendation to publish draft RFQ document. This is a discussion item only. No discretionary action will be taken on this item; therefore, this meeting item is not subject to CEQA.

Vice Chair Smith introduced the item.

Public Art Specialist Ward presented draft RFQ document and next project steps.

Vice Chair Smith opened public comment.

No public comment.

Vice Chair Smith closed public comment and opened the item for discussion.

- Vice Chair Smith commented about clarification about the role of artist or designer.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded about project process.
- Committee Member Digges commented about project goals.
- Committee Member Spongr commented about selecting artist.

Public Art Specialist Ward requested clarification from Committee members for item.

Vice Chair Smith opened the item up to Committee comments:

- Committee Member Digges asked if visual examples can be provided.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about artist representation.

Public Art Specialist Ward responded about visual examples.

- Vice Chair Smith commented about goals.
- Committee Member Coldiron asked for clarification on the budget.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded.
- Committee Member Coldiron commented on budget.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded.
- Committee Member Rizzo Simons commented on grant money.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded about Public Art Fund.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about project goals.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded.
- Vice Chair Smith suggested to move ahead.

The Committee was in agreement to move forward and publish the RFP.

## **COMMITTEE COMMENT**

### **7 Fine Balance**

Public Art Specialist Ward provided a project update.

Vice Chair Smith commented about project location.

### **8 Woven Stories**

Public Art Specialist Ward provided an update recommending an alternative site in case the current site does not get approved.

### **Other Committee Comments**

- Committee Member Coldiron asked staff if Lynn Deedler was in contact.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded that he has not.

- Public Art Specialist Ward updated Committee on Home Stretch restoration with Preservation Arts.
- Committee Member Coldiron asked if the original artist was notified.
- Public Art Specialist Ward stated he got no response.
- Vice Chair Smith asked about staff time.
- Public Art Specialist Ward responded.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about LaVia apartments and 330 D Street for public art.
- Vice Chair Smith commented about local artist Bruce Jonhson recently died.
- Committee Member Coldiron acknowledged Committee Member Digges and her involvement with the banners project.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

### **9 Project status updates.**

- Public Art Specialist Ward provided an update on the bus shelter murals.
- Public Art Specialist Ward provided updated about David Best River Arch.
- Public Art Specialist Ward commented about “Agraria” is up for acquisition in Santa Rosa, CA.

Committee Member Coldiron asked a clarifying question regarding the amount awarded to David Best.

Vice Chair Smith commented about David Best project budget.

Public Art Specialist Ward responded about River Arch project budget.

### **10 Potential Items for Future Agendas**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Smith closed the meeting at 8:51 PM.