

## **Emeryville Public Art Committee**

### **Action Recap – Meeting Minutes Meeting of October 11, 2012**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by Stephan Headley at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call is presented below.

Members Present: Laura Anderson (5:37), Samantha Blanchard, Edythe Bresnahan; Kurt Brinkman, Nora Davis, Jean Goldman, Stephen Headley, Alicia Raffel, Judy Wetterer, Sharon Wilchar

Members Excused: Randy Symank

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Helen Bean, Amber Evans, Maurice Kaufman

Others: Regina Almaguer

**Public Comment** – None

**Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2012 Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes with corrections to excused absences made by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Member Goldman and approved unanimously.

#### Action Items

**Consideration of Purchase Award** – Discussion included Councilmember Davis' strong objection to the purchase recommendation with expressed concern regarding the promotion of graffiti in a City which uses limited resources to eradicate graffiti. She raised concerns that staff would feel disrespected to see the glorification of graffiti and that residents who call consistently to see graffiti removed would receive a reversed symbolic statement. Member Blanchard lauded the piece for its continuation of work such as that carried out by the East Bay Youth Arts Center to encourage young artists to hone their skills as artists rather than deface other art or simply tag buildings.

Regina Almaguer, the consultant supporting the panel selection process, noted the panel's selection was not intended to glorify graffiti but the piece was noted by panelists for its color, size, inter-activity and relevance to a younger generation with an overall score of 92 out of 100. Member Goldman spoke to the need to respect the panel process. Chair Wilchar suggested the purchase include a 5 year warranty and a contract with the artist to maintain the piece. Councilmember Brinkman raised concerns regarding need for a dedicated circuit/UPS port. Member Headley noted concern regarding commercial images or pieces that could be seen as corporate in the piece.

Chair Wilchar moved and Member Blanchard offered second to “Recommend the purchase of the Art Work recommended for purchase by the Selection Panel titled “Urban Transformation” by Emeryville Artist Carl Hoard II.” Council member Davis called for a roll call vote. Anderson, Brinkman, Blanchard, Goldman, Headley, Raffel, and Wilchar voted to approve (7), while Davis and Wetterer voted no (2) and Bresnahan abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Member Goldman moved and Chair Wilchar offered second to “Recommend to the City Council that the Purchase Award piece be located on the Second Story landing to the right of the lavatory entrances on an empty wall.” Motion failed to pass due to lack of majority among those present with 5 voting for, 4 opposed and 1 abstaining.

**Consideration of an Art Installation in the Skate Park proposed at Joseph Emery Park**– Maurice Kaufman, Public Works Director brought a proposal for installing art in one or more locations in the proposed Skate Park at Joseph Emery Park. The park is between Park Avenue and 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Pixar Studios and the Promenade Shops on San Pablo Avenue. The proposal is to be further developed both in terms of process and scope, but the Director was seeking to understand the possible scope the PAC would support and possible funding contribution from the Public Art Fund. Director Kaufman noted scope could include:

- a railing needed to protect the adjacent Promenade Shops parking lot from the skate activity. This might be skatable and have art integrated within.
- colored concrete/paving designs integrated in park
- skatable sculptured elements

The designer for the park will soon be under contract and while their scope includes coordinating with an artist, it does not include design of the art features. Director Kaufman discussed the railing with local artist Vicki Jo Sowell and she estimated a wrought iron art railing would cost \$75,000 if 100 feet long. Committee members indicated an open call with RFP would be preferred process if the Arts Fund was to be used and Chair Wilchar noted the base costs of items such as a railing or concretes work should be paid for out of the existing grant the park improvements and only the additional cost of artistic embellishments paid for out of the art fund.

Councilmember Davis moved and member Blanchard seconded that a proposal for a Request for Proposals for art elements at the Joseph Emery Skate park be brought to the Art Committee for consideration and recommendation to the City Council. Motion passed unanimously. .

**Consideration of Public Art Program Marketing** – Director Helen Bean noted the map is limited to just 40 images and to determine the 40 to be included, staff suggests the committee vote using the tally sheet distributed earlier in the month

and the item be continued until the Committee provides staff direction. Staff further noted input received to date included:

- Sequencing of the numbering could be better organized to offer walkable routes, images selected could be targeted along a walkable route
- Reduce pieces on Wareham property – specifically Greg Hawthorne and Michael Gustavson were featured numerous time, perhaps also reduce images of pieces in City Hall where clustered
- Add Birdhouses (Image #52) and the mosaic on Shellmound (not the one pictured in inventory, issue is not adjacent to sidewalk)
- Add description of location on the site

Committee is expected review the staff tally of the votes received by Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and make a recommendation at the November PAC meeting.

### Information Items

**Project Updates**– Staff updated the status of projects under installation or design now. Shellmound Community and Art Committee appointees will be made Oct 16<sup>th</sup> by the Council and first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee is expected in early December. Staff have asked artist Seyed Alavi to bring a proposal to the November meeting of the PAC for consideration of updating of the existing Utility Boxes.

**Staff Comments** – Staff indicated a party celebrating the purchase (if approved) is initially planned for December 5, 2012. Staff also distributed the summary form used to record private development participation in the Art in Public Places Program.

**Member Comments** – Chair Wilchar announced an Open House by invitation at the Emeryville Artist Coop and Tuesdays in October at Farley's on 65th will benefit Celebration of the Arts.

**Next Meeting Date** –Thursday, November 8, 2012 5:30 p.m.,

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Approved by Committee:

Amber Evans  
Committee Secretary  
Economic Development & Housing Department

November 8, 2012

Date: December 6, 2012