



A Regular Meeting of the Albany Arts Committee Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2010
Albany Community Center
Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.
7:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:04p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Goodman/McQuaid, Abel, Adame, Bingham-Goess, Black, Maris, Norman and St. George.

Staff present: Supervisor Isabelle Leduc.

- 2. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes from December 2009 as corrected made by Member Adame and seconded by Member Black. Motion carried all in favor

- 3. Public Comment:** None

- 4. Comments/Announcements from Committee Members:** Member Black stated that the art opening for Noreen Linden had been very successful and she was happy to see so many Committee members in attendance. She stated that the gallery walls were damaged and a plan should be in place for repair before the next show in April.

Member Adame stated that she had attended the last Public Art Academy meeting. The speaker was the San Francisco public art manager and she recommended the use of artist contracts that included several additional conditions, not in the current Albany contract. These additions could be helpful in avoiding costly problems and Member Adame would pass the recommendations on to Supervisor Leduc to review. She also suggested that large projects may need project managers.

- 5. Comments/Announcements from Staff:** Supervisor Leduc stated that street paint would be discussed at the February 1st Council meeting.
- 6. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

6-1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Committee will elect Chair and Vice Chair for the year 2010.

Motion:

Member Adame nominated Member McQuaid for Chair and Chair Goodman seconded. Member McQuaid accepted. Motion carried all in favor.

Motion:

Member Norman nominated Member Adame for Vice Chair. Member Adame accepted. Motion carried all in favor.

6-2. Albany Arts & Green Festival – Staff will present an update. Supervisor Leduc stated that the next planning meeting was scheduled for the current week and the group would be discussing the layout and stage lineup. Applications had been sent, but Member St. George suggested putting the Albany Arts

Committee on the email title line to catch attention in the future. Supervisor Leduc stated that materials would go to the graphic designer by the end of the week.

6-3. Public Art Master Plan – Consultants Brian Laczko and Steven Huss will present an update.

Mr. Huss stated that they had completed site surveys and had divided the City into sections. They passed out a map indicating their divisions and the names they had designated for each location. They had discovered that Albany gateway and entry points were important markers and the next step was to make recommendations for different sites. The draft report would be ready at the end of the month.

Member Goodman asked if the next set of plans would be clearer. The consultants stated that they would. Their survey had led them to do some urban design work, which would be important for the Committee to prioritize as they moved ahead. They asked the Committee for any input and the timeline for the plan as a whole.

Supervisor Leduc stated that it was her hope that all the different projects the Committee were working on, could be grouped together under the Master Plan and presented to Council at one time. It seemed that a May deadline might not be realistic but it was up to the Committee to decide and a meeting of the subcommittee was in order.

Member Goodman stated hesitancy about the Committees taking on too large a role in the urban planning process. The consultants agreed, but stressed that due to timing the Committee was in the forefront of changes taking place in the City.

Chair McQuaid stated that she would contact the subcommittee to meet in the next couple of weeks. Supervisor Leduc stated that she would like to put the public art plan display board in the lobby until the next meeting for the public to review. Mr. Laczko passed out cards that described the process for artists to get onto the County registry and handed out material on a County grant program.

The Committee agreed to move forward to item 6.6.

6-4. Mural Program – Committee will provide input on the revised draft brochure of the mural program. The Committee reviewed and commented on the draft brochure. Member Norman stated concern about the approval process and the branding issue. She stated that bringing branding to business owner's attention by including it in the brochure could have negative results. Member Goodman and Adame stated that it was not possible to tell businesses what to do, but it was hoped that they would follow guidelines. Member Norman stated that an artist's pool was helpful, but was still concerned about quality control. Member Adame stated that it was possible to have waiver agreements with artists regarding removing artwork.

Member Norman suggested wording that would steer the public toward the Arts Committee for ideas. Supervisor Leduc suggested changing wording to let the public know that the Committee would promote and assist with creating murals and stressed reaching out to interested artists. Member Goodman stated that he would revise the wording.

Member Black suggested being clear, simple and to the point. Member Goodman suggested more of a graphic look with shorter text. Member McQuaid liked the longer text because it provided explanation and the idea that the Committee was in charge. Supervisor Leduc stated that a kickoff event for business owners and artists would introduce the community to the program and set up the Committee as overseeing the project. The Committee was encouraged to email Member Goodman with thoughts or comments on the rewording, which he would forward on to the subcommittee for review.

6-5. Art Ordinance Brochure – Committee will review the first draft of the brochure. Chair McQuaid stated that she and Member Adame had worked on the first draft. It was intended to give the public some ideas on how to begin the process when applying for building permits with the City. Supervisor Leduc stated that she would pass the draft on to Jeff Bond for comment after editing by Member Goodman.

6-6. Poet Laureate – Committee will receive an update on the Poet Laureate’s activities and discuss funding for the program. Member Goodman stated that Christina Hutchins was in attendance to give an update. Ms. Hutchins stated that she had been tasked with writing 4 poems a year for the City, led poetry workshops in the elementary schools and high schools and enjoyed working with small groups. She had done readings with very strong followings, poet in your pocket days and an interview with a California Poets Laureate group. Ms. Hutchins stated that it might be possible to have a gathering of California Poets Laureate in Albany.

Member Goodman asked that Ms. Hutchins give the Committee advance notice of readings and events and stated that he would send out requests for funding. Ms. Hutchins stated that she would be willing to help with fundraising events and would participate in the Albany Arts and Green Festival. Member Goodman asked if the Poet Laureate and Committee might be willing to extend the contract term from 2 to 3 years. Ms Hutchins agreed and asked for business cards. Member Goodman stated that he would help with that.

Motion:

Motion to extend Christina Hutchins contract as Albany Poet Laureate from 2 to 3 years assuming that funding could be procured made by Member Adame and seconded by Member St. George. Motion carried all in favor.

6-7. Banners – Committee will discuss the implementation of a spring banner contest. Chair McQuaid asked the Committee if they had the time or ability to implement a banner contest. The Committee agreed they did not. Chair McQuaid stated that the Solano Stroll banners were still up violating City policy and pressuring the Solano Avenue Association to take them down might encourage work on new banners.

7. Future Agenda Items: Repair to the gallery walls, funding for Poet Laureate, the Public Art Master Plan, the Community Center lobby, the Ordinance brochure, update on the banners and herons.

8. Adjournment: 9:20pm