



**A Regular Meeting of the Albany Arts Committee Minutes**  
**Monday, July 13, 2009**  
**Albany Community Center**  
**Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.**  
**7:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:08p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Goodman, Abel, Bingham-Goess, Maris, McQuaid and St. George. Excused Members Adamé, Norman and Black.

Staff present: Supervisor Isabelle Leduc and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes: June 2009**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes from June 2009 made by Chair Goodman and seconded by Member Maris.

Motion carried all in favor

- 3. Public Comment:** None

- 4. Comments/Announcements From Committee Members:** Member Bingham-Goess reported that artist Laila Espinoza's gallery opening had gone well. Member McQuaid stated that the mural sub-committee had met and drafted a policy that was being reviewed by staff.

Chair Goodman stated that Committee members should contact Supervisor Leduc prior to a meeting if they were not able to attend, so it would be clear if there would be a quorum.

- 5. Comments/Announcements From Staff:** Supervisor Leduc stated that the Albany Arts Gallery on Solano Ave. had written a letter to the City Attorney asking that the name Albany Arts Gallery be removed from the City website and literature, as it conflicted with their business. It was decided that there was an opportunity to make amends and reach out to art organizations in the community. Supervisor Leduc would contact Susan Williams the owner of the gallery, and discussion of ways to reach out to the art community would be a future agenda item.
- 6. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

**6-1. Spring Art and Music Festival and Green Albany Day – Sustainability Committee Chair Tom Cooper and Committee Member Miya Kitahara, will present the idea of adding to the Spring Art and Music festival a Green Albany Fair.** Miya Kitahara stated that the Sustainability Committee hoped to combine Green Albany Day with the Spring Art and Music Festival to make a larger more fun event attracting a more diverse group.

The Committee was open to the idea and after some discussion; Supervisor Leduc stated the item would be agendaized and a representative from the Sustainability Committee should attend the September meeting. At that time, further discussions could take place regarding the date, change of event name and possible money issues. Member McQuaid stated that the Community Foundation should be included in the discussions.

**6-2. Public Art Master Plan – The Committee will interview the Art Consultants who have responded to the Public Art Master Plan RFP.** Supervisor Leduc stated that the RFP had been sent out

to local consultants. Laczko/Huss had responded with a written submission of their ideas and qualifications, and were in attendance to give a presentation to the Committee.

Steven Huss and Brian Laczko both stated their qualifications in public art, including implementing a plan in Oakland, and looked forward to possibly working with Albany. They stated that their plan would be to discover what was unique about Albany, how Albany saw itself and how public art could reflect that image. The process would take 6-8 months to complete. They stated that they hoped to put together a steering committee to help facilitate answering those questions.

Chair Goodman asked Laczko/Huss how they would implement a team approach. Mr. Huss stated that there would be forums for public input including both open and structured meetings for active information gathering. Mr. Laczko stated that through a series of meetings they would look to distill a set of values that would guide the process and inspire criteria.

Supervisor Leduc stated that Fern Tiger and the waterfront Voices to Vision process could provide valuable information.

Chair Goodman asked what form their report would take. Mr. Laczko stated that there would be interwoven maps, photos and words with emphasis on site prioritization. Chair Goodman asked what would be missing from their plan considering the \$10,000 budget. Mr. Huss stated that it should be considered a section of a larger plan and a structural plan would be a start for information that would expand. Mr. Laczko stated that Albany was small and the waterfront as an economic engine could provide opportunities for public art. Chair Goodman stated that the Committee would benefit from very specific questions from Laczko/Huss.

Mr. Huss stated that there was a trend toward projects working in partnership with other organizations and it would be important to identify potential partners for funding and creative ways to work together.

Supervisor Leduc questioned if the consultants would work with the Committee during regular meeting times, or if special planning meetings would be necessary. Mr. Laczko stated that initial administrative tasks could be at the regular meeting, and then a sub-committee would most likely be formed.

The Committee discussed the qualifications and answers of the consultants after their departure. Member Maris stated that she would like to see some of their ideas before approving. Other members stated that they liked their basic plan and it was time to move forward.

**Motion:**

Motion to move forward with the contract for the Sites and Criteria Section of the Public Art Master Plan using Laczko/Huss made by Member McQuaid and seconded by Member St. George. Motion carried all in favor.

Supervisor Leduc stated that she would fulfill the formality of checking references for due diligence. She stated that she would contact Laczko/Huss for a timeline and to discuss the next step. Member St. George stated that the consultants should not focus on the waterfront.

**6-3. Banners – The banner sub-committee will discuss the progress made on the organization of the spring banner contest.** Supervisor Leduc stated that the two main sub-committee members were absent, but they had met with the other stakeholders since the last meeting and made some progress. There would be an updated report at the September meeting.

**6-4. Mission Statement Duties and function – The document was approved by the City Council, July 6, 2009.** Supervisor Leduc reported that the document had been approved, and would be available online.

**6-5. August Meeting – The Committee will discuss having a meeting in August.** It was decided that there would be no August meeting

**7. Future Agenda Items;** Applications for gallery shows, Master Plan consultants

**8. Adjournment: 8:28pm**

*Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.*

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