



A Regular Meeting of the Albany Arts Committee Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2009
Albany Community Center
Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.
7:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:02p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Goodman, Abel, Adamé, Bingham-Goess, Black, Maris and McQuaid. Excused Members St. George and Norman.

Staff present: Supervisor Isabelle Leduc and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes: 2009**

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes as corrected from April 2009 made by Member Adamé and seconded by Member McQuaid. Motion carried all in favor

- 3. Public Comment:** None

- 4. Comments/Announcements From Committee Members:** Member Adamé informed the Committee she was reinstating the tax exempt Civic Arts Foundation, which had been used as the fundraising arm of the Committee in the past. She further informed the Committee that the Foundation supported services and activities and would need a board of directors. Chair Goodman asked to be kept informed and to put items on the agenda regarding any administrative issues if necessary.

Member Black stated that the gallery opening had gone well, but there should be a policy for serving alcohol at events. She stated that artist Laila Espinoza was scheduled for the next opening on July 12th from 4 to 6 pm. Member Black stated that advertising for gallery exhibitors had been posted to websites and publications, with submissions going to Supervisor Leduc.

- 5. Comments/Announcements From Staff:** Supervisor Leduc stated that she would be attending the Northern California Public Art Administrators Network, to get ideas and feedback. She stated that mural information had been included in the packet for the Committee to review for next month's meeting. Chair Goodman asked the Committee to read through the material and be prepared for discussion in June.

- 6. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

6-1. Fern Tiger – Reminder form Fern Tiger Associates to encourage Committee Members to promote participation in the *Voices to Vision* neighborhood gatherings, mid May through the end of June. Fern Tiger asked the Committee to spread the word about participation in the *Voices to Vision* process by checking the website, wearing the button for advertising and talking to their neighbors. She stated her hope that all City Committee members and Commissioners would act as ambassadors to encourage Albany citizens to rsvp and attend the sessions. She stated that the Waterfront model was displayed in the Community Center lobby and encouraged the Committee to check it out and encourage others as well.

Ms. Tiger stated that the community sessions were the first part of the process, and there would be opportunity for more public participation in the fall. She stated that the first 20-30 minutes of the session would be used for gathering information for the General Plan as well.

6-2. “Hérons” Sculpture – Mark Canepa, the artist who created “Hérons”, the metal sculpture located at the end of Buchanan will be at the meeting to discuss his work. Sculptor Mark Canepa gave an overview of the history of his participation in the art project, as well as a description of the process that he used for creation of the sculptures. He stated that there was no maintenance contract for the upkeep of the sculpture.

Supervisor Leduc stated that the sculpture was City property, and it was responsible for the maintenance, including removing the graffiti. She stated that the City had no budget for any restoration, other than graffiti removal.

Mr. Canepa stated that he had done some restoration on his own, but the rust spots needed to be bondoed, sanded and repainted to restore them. He stated that a ballpark figure for restoring it would be less than \$1,000. He also suggested hiring a local graffiti artist to repaint, as another option.

Member McQuaid stated that it would set a bad pattern to allow changes to public art, and suggested finding a funding source for the restoration, to be done by the artist.

Public Comment: Alan Maris stated that the Rotary Club, the Lions and the Albany Community Foundation were possible funding sources.

Chair Goodman stated that the Committee consensus was to restore the sculpture as close as possible to the original by finding a funding source or sources, and suggested developing an annual maintenance policy for public art. The Committee agreed that they would be in touch with Mark Canepa when funding was identified.

6-3. Banners – Members McQuaid and Adamé will provide an update. Member McQuaid stated that she and Member Adamé had met with Allen Cain from the Solano Ave. Association, City Administrator Beth Pollard and Todd Abbott from the Chamber. They discussed a draft interim administrative policy that included a goal of banners on San Pablo, Solano and Buchanan that created scenery, community identity and advertisement for public events and activities. The design guidelines were for banners that were distinctive to Albany, reflective of the community, simple, cohesive and had elements of diversity and sustainable.

Non-profits could apply for short-term banner permits. Community Development would consult with two members of the Arts Committee for short-term banners and forward to the Committee for recommendations on long-term banners. The group discussed creating a Fall/Winter banner, a Spring/Summer banner and a Solano Stroll banner.

The Committee suggested a simple logo with Albany Hill and the Golden Gate Bridge as a Fall/Winter banner design idea. Member McQuaid stated that she would forward the idea to the graphic artist.

Member McQuaid hoped that the Committee would conduct a contest for the Spring/Summer banner design. She suggested waiting until the City branding ideas were clear, before the contest. Member Black thought the high schools could participate with the help of Member Norman using preset guidelines and parameters.

Member McQuaid asked that banners be put on the June agenda and Supervisor Leduc stated that she would email the draft policy to the Committee.

6-4. Spring Art and Music Festival – The Committee will discuss the event held April 26th. The Committee discussed the event. Supervisor Leduc distributed an event wrap up sheet for discussion. She stated that the morning children’s events and food booths had been successful, but the artists and band had not worked as well.

The Committee discussed refining the spirit and purpose of the event for the future. It was decided that the event had been trying to do too much, and going forward, it was important to find events and activities that supported Albany family life. Rather than trying to sell art, which had not been successful, to showcase and promoting art activities that were available in the City including music.

It was decided that possibilities for future events were; change of venue, coordinating so the festival didn’t conflict with other City events, inviting local Albany musicians, possibly leaving out the poet laureate, Arts Committee members at the event and other changes to the art sale format. The timeline for advertising was dictated by the publication dates of the Recreation Activity Guide, so decisions would need to be made by October.

6-5. Green Albany Day – The Committee will discuss having a booth at the Green Albany Day event held at the Veteran’s Memorial Building on Sunday May 17th from 11am-3pm. The Arts Committee decided to provide a table at Albany Green Day. Member Bingham-Goess would man the table from 11am-1pm and Member Maris from 1pm-3pm. The table would have; pictures of the Long Song sculpture, postcards from the current exhibit and postcards from the Arts Committee. Supervisor Leduc would put a box with table supplies together.

6-6. Memorial Park Art Work – Member McQuaid will present her concerns with the current state of the art work. Member McQuaid stated that the condition of Long Song had deteriorated within two weeks of the dedication. The grass had become brown from too much mulch, the netting under the grass was close to the surface and the graffiti sealer was peeling off. The Committee decided to keep an eye on it for the time being and put discussion of the sculpture on the agenda again in June.

6-7. Economic Development Work Group – Staff will provide an update. Supervisor Leduc stated that the staff report from the Development Group had been presented to Council and all of the recommendations had passed and was included in the packet. The Arts Committee could expect to be included in decisions about branding, banners, signage and murals. A lot of the recommendations would fall together with the Public Art Master Plan. Supervisor Leduc would keep the Committee updated.

6-8. Poet Laureate – Chair Goodman will provide an update on fundraising efforts for the program. Chair Goodman stated that he had drafted a letter and packet for the fundraising effort. The Committee agreed that he would send the packet out when it was completed.

6-9. Public Art Master Plan – Staff will provide an update. Supervisor Leduc stated that Council had approved the Master Plan. The next step was to move forward in drafting the request for proposals. It was hoped that the RFP would be completed by the end of the month and there would be proposals to consider by July.

6-10. Mission Statement/Duties and Functions – Staff will provide an update. Supervisor Leduc stated that the statement would be presented to Council on Monday, May 18th and there were no conflicts with Municipal Code.

7. Future Agenda Items: Memorial Park Art Work, the Public Art Master plan, banners, murals, heron sculpture funding source, art gallery artists and applicants

8. Adjournment: 9pm

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.

NOTE: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council/Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Community Center counter located at 1249 Marin Ave during normal business hours, 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.