



Approved MINUTES

SUNNYVALE ARTS COMMISSION March 20, 2013

The Arts Commission met in regular session in the Neighborhood Room of the Recreation Center, 550 E. Remington Dr. at 7:00 PM with Chair Park presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board/Commission Members Present:

Chair Misuk Park, Commissioner Tracy Seto (arrived 7:12 PM), Commissioner Shawnte Santos, Commissioner Robert Sumner, Commissioner Vinita Karun (arrived 7:05 PM)

Council Liaison: Council Liaison Jim Davis (Present)

Staff Present:

Lisa Rosenblum, Director of Library and Community Services, Kristin Dance, Visual Arts Coordinator, Anna Lewis, Administrative Aide

Others:

Vickie Jo Sowell (Artist), Dominic Panziera (Artist), Cheryl Anton (Interpreter), Sherry Thannisch (Interpreter)

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Karan arrived (7:05 PM)

Commissioner Sumner moved and Commissioner Santos seconded to approve Consent Calendar 1A and 1B as presented. Motion carried (3-0-1); Commissioner Karun abstained as she was absent at the last meeting.

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of January 16, 2013.

1.B. Approval of Commissioner Karun's absence on January 16, 2013 as unexcused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Report To Council (RTC) – Review and Selection of the Seven Seas Park Public Art Project. Director Rosenblum provided the Commission with a brief overview of the RTC. The RTC will be presented to Council at their April 23, 2013 meeting.

Commissioner Seto arrived. (7:12 PM)

Chair Park inquired why the Project Review Committee only allowed Northern California artists to participate in the program. Kristin Dance, Visual Arts Coordinator, explained that the Committee decided to only accept proposals from Northern California artists because the budget was likely to only attract local artists, there would be sufficient interest, and the number of artists in Northern California is large.

Ms. Dance reviewed the Project Review Committee process. In accordance with the Art in Public Places Council Policy, the Arts Commission was requested to rank the three proposals by preference and to recommend approval of a proposal to Council.

It was noted that it is standard practice for staff to work with the selected artist to address engineering and other details that arise during the implementation phases of any project. Any significant changes to the overall design, size and/or shape would require the artwork be returned to the Commission and Council for approval.

Staff recommends Alternative 3: Approve design Proposal #3 – “Sunnyvale Reef” by artist Vickie Jo Sowell and direct staff to enter into an Artist’s Agreement and to work with the artist to address safety, durability and design concerns as necessary throughout the design, fabrication and installation phases.

Chair Park opened the public hearing.

Staff informed the Commission that Artist #1 chose not to attend or give a presentation tonight.

Dominic Panziera, of the artistic team Arteclettica, (Proposal #2) described “Under the Umbrella” as a 10-foot high umbrella in Tiffany style, with glass and stone mosaic resembling a medusa jelly fish. There are seven sections with seats under the umbrella. Each section is divided with a flat area or table protruding. In one section the table is replaced with a dog bowl. He described it as functional and kid friendly, a colorful piece with references to the ocean, sea water and animals. The umbrella contains seven low-maintenance solar powered lights, which provides a soft light at night.

Mr. Panziera answered Commissioners’ questions regarding design, structure and durability augmenting the details in the staff report. He addressed Commissioners concerns regarding the level of maintenance this art piece may require. Prior work he created has no cracks in the grout and has withstood temperatures to -50°F. Any batteries or lights that need to be replaced will be accessible. The concrete and stone can be cleaned with a hose, needs no sealant, and is low maintenance.

Vickie Jo Sowell (Proposal #3) presented “Sunnyvale Reef”. It is made of molded steel, and is zinc plated, powder baked, in a Hammertone Blue finish. Matching spray paint is available. The “Sunnyvale Reef” project has two components, which will be on each side of the park entry way. Each piece is three layers. The middle of one piece has an angel fish, and the other has a sea horse, which can be seen from both sides of the piece. It has animals and shells, including a crab and spiral shells, reflecting the local sea life. It is 3-dimensional, as if you are looking through an ocean or reef. It is detailed with wavy lines and bubbles. The piece is 8½ feet tall, by 4 feet wide, by 1½ foot deep. It will be bolted to concrete. There is no maintenance required other than soap and water once a year.

Ms. Sowell answered Commissioners' questions regarding size, safety and color. Ms Sowell replied that the sides will be welded shut, and totally enclosed so there is no climbing hazard. Ms. Sowell estimates the total weight of both pieces combined at about 350 lbs. Commissioners viewed a sample of the painted metal.

Chair Park closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Sumner suggested Proposal #1 be prioritized the lowest since it has parts that could be pulled or swung on by a child.

Commissioner Park asked for a motion to follow staff's recommendation. There was no motion made.

Each Commissioner stated his or her preferred ranking and the reason for it.

Commissioner Karun stated she ranks "Under the Umbrella" as number one for its functionality and because she likes the lights, especially in winter. She feels it provides a place for people to interact. She ranks "Sunnyvale Reef" as second choice, stating it is a beautiful piece as you enter the park, but once in the park it is behind you. "Under the Sunny Seas" is her third choice.

Commissioner Santos ranked "Under the Umbrella" as her first choice. She likes that you can interact with the piece. It will be inside the park, visible from around the park with the glass reflecting the sun light. It is a shelter and provides a nice spot for the public, and the dog bowl is a nice feature. This park is designed to be a fun place, and the umbrella will add to the experience. She ranks "Sunnyvale Reef" second. She stated it is beautifully designed. She loves how it captures the movement of the sea. However once you walk into the park it is behind you, and not interactive. "Under the Sunny Seas" is ranked third.

Chair Park ranked "Under the Umbrella" first. She understands there is more maintenance, and there is a worry that someone will jump off the top, and maybe the dog bowl will need to be sanitized. She feels glass is not as durable and it is a more fragile piece. She ranks it number one because it is a striking piece that is eye catching and will be unique to this park. She would prefer that the umbrella have less floral and more sea themed designs. She ranked "Sunnyvale Reef" second. The reef design is fitting with the theme of the park, and will be immediately visible. She would like to ensure that it is not a climbing hazard, and that it is enclosed so nothing can be caught inside the piece. She likes both, and hopes there could be money raised to purchase a second piece in the future. She ranked "Under the Sunny Seas" third.

Commissioner Seto ranked "Under the Umbrella" first, because it is kid friendly, will be enjoyed by all including animals. It creates a good memory for people, building a sense of community. It is safe, friendly and natural. She ranked the "Sunnyvale Reef" as second. It is beautiful, a lovely color, and a striking piece. It is easily recognizable that you are entering the park; it is a gateway making the entry formal. She ranked "Under the Sunny Sea" third because it is high maintenance, not kid friendly, and potentially unsafe.

Commissioner Sumner ranked "Under the Umbrella" first. It is interactive. It is like a tree emerging from the water. The dog bowl adds to the aesthetic and interactive nature. He also has concerns about glass being fragile, but he trusts staff to work with the artist to ensure the art is durable and long lasting. The "Sunnyvale Reef" ranked second. He stated it is a beautiful

work of art. He expressed that he can understand the staff recommendation, and appreciated seeing the color in the sample compared to the handout, he loves the color and loves the idea. He ranked the "Under the Sunny Seas" third.

Director Rosenblum reiterated that staff will work with the artist to address any items of concern.

Commissioner Santos moved to prioritize "Under the Umbrella" #1, "Sunnyvale Reef" #2, and "Under the Sunny Seas" #3 and to recommend to Council Alternative 2: Approve design Proposal #2 – "Under the Umbrella" by the artistic team Arteclettica and direct staff to enter into an Artist's Agreement. Commissioner Sumner seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Director Rosenblum explained that the Arts Commission Chair will be asked to attend the Council meeting on April 23, 2013, to be available to discuss the Commission decision, as it differs from the staff recommendation.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Sumner asked the status of the park naming contest. Staff agreed to follow up with the Commission.

Commissioner Park attended the Foundation Center meeting in February at the Sunnyvale Library. She learned how to raise money, and how to create a 501 C 3 application in reference to reopening the Sunnyvale Gallery. It will require an application fee of \$850. It appears private donations will be the best way to re-open the Sunnyvale Gallery.

Director Rosenblum requested the Commission hold the Sunnyvale Gallery topic until a Manager of Arts and Marketing is hired. She announced that Daniel Wax has accepted the position of Superintendent of Community Services. He has worked as Division Manager for the City of San Jose, in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department. He oversees 150+ full time and 300+ part time employees assisting with the administration and monitoring of a 15 million dollar budget. His first day with the City of Sunnyvale is April 8th. He will work on the recruitment for the Arts and Marketing Manager.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

Hands on the Arts is on May 18, 2013. Commissioners may volunteer by contacting Kristin Dance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa G. Rosenblum
Director of Library and Community Services.