
Public Art Committee

Lynne Brown, Chair
Audrey Rumsby, Vice Chair

Elizabeth Alvarez
Trami Cron
Bryce Lynch

Sm

Public Art Advisory Committee
Karen Gauss, Heidi Lubin, Chloe Shipp

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA –STUDY SESSION
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 5:30 PM

San José City Hall
Online Meeting

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

- A. Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Commissioners Elizabeth Alvarez, Lynne Brown, Trami Cron, Audrey Rumsby
PAAC Members: Heidi Lubin, Chloe Shipp

ABSENT: Commissioner Bryce Lynch

STAFF: Public Art Director Michael Ogilvie, Sr. Project Manager Lynn Rogers, Sr.
Project Manager Mary Rubin, Sr. Art Coordinator Emily Sevier

Guest Presenters: None.

II. Public Record

None.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. None. Approval the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on April 6 2021 deferred to a future meeting.

V. Reports

- A. Welcome and Agenda Review – Chair Lynne Brown
1. Chair Lynne Brown reported that the input from this evening’s study session will be forwarded to the Arts Commission for action; the Arts Commission will forward their recommendation to City Council.

VI. Study Session

A. REPORT with ACTION

Reviewed and approved recommendation by the PAC to the Arts Commission the deaccession of the Thomas Fallon statue by artist Robert Glen located at W. Julian Street. (District 3 and Citywide)

Mvd/2nd: A. Rumsby/E. Alvarez; Passed: 4 Yes; 0 No.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: The PAC recommends that, if deaccession of the Fallon statue is approved, the statue be put into permanent storage and that guidelines and rules that reflect the values and concerns of the constituents who requested removal be put in place to clearly restrict any future use of the statue.

Mvd/2nd: T. Cron/A. Rumsby; Passed: 4 Yes; 0 No.

Presented by Public Art Director Michael Ogilvie including a detailed visual history of the Fallon statue condition and a synopsis of the history and background.

PAC/PAAC Discussion: PAC Chair Brown reviewed the schedule going forward. PAC members inquired about storage options; M. Ogilvie clarified what options are under consideration. Commissioner Alvarez asked about the option of melting the bronze statue down as that had been requested by the public in public meetings. M. Ogilvie explained the costs and return on melting it down (\$12,000) plus the cost to deinstall (\$100,000 plus \$25,000 personnel costs.) Commissioner Alvarez asked that if in storage would there be the possibility of options to either reinstall it or, if it has a high value, to sell it. M. Ogilvie clarified that once the artwork is formally deaccessioned it becomes "real property" and the City could consider selling it. PAC questioned whether there was any way to require the City to not sell it, so that it could not every be displayed again.

PAC/PAAC proceeded to hear testimony from the est. 36 people attending which members of the public and some City staff and Arts Commissioners (neither of the latter two groups provided input) The audio of the public testimony is retained in the recording of the meeting. After hearing public testimony from all who wished to speak, the PAC Chair closed public comment and opened up final remarks by the PAC/PAAC.

At the request of PAC members, background issues about the creation of the statue and its long history of public protest against were reviewed and discussed. M. Ogilvie noted that due to initial public outrage about the Fallon statue, the statue was placed in storage while four additional public artworks were created that honored the Ohlone, early Mexican American and other area residents, after which the Fallon statue was then installed. Commissioner Cron thanked the public and others for their input and, in response to reviewing attachments to the memo, Cron asked if a motion can be added to the existing motion: one that recommends restricting what can be done with the statue if it is sold or removed from storage which will be intended to ensure that the public's request that it never be placed on display again be honored. Commissioner Alvarez commented that she had protested it 30 years earlier and noted that, per much of the public input, for a large part of the population the statue is a symbol of disrespect and oppression. Other PAC members commented on the value and importance of the public comment. All agreed to adding an amendment to the original motion.

VII. Continuing/Old Business

None.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

The next regular meeting of the Public Art Committee is Tuesday, June 1, 2021, online via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM

ATTEST:
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE SECRETARY

PRESIDING:
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lynn Rogers

Recorded by LYNN ROGERS, SR. PROGRAM OFFICER

LYNNE BROWN

DRAFT