

CITY OF SONOMA
CULTURAL & FINE ARTS COMMISSION
City Hall Conference Room, The Plaza, Sonoma CA

January 28, 2016
MINUTES

Call to Order – Chair Schertz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Carlsson, Cravens, Kuhry, Personette, Ransom, and Schertz

Absent: Ontko & Ryan

Also Present: Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Johann, Robert Demler, George McKale, Michael Ross, Sean Ballach, Tom Haeuser

Public Communications – By email, Clerk Johann had informed the Commission that the recorded attendance at the Treasure Artist reception was 78. Expenses were \$1,478.37 (\$1,237.50 for Wild Thyme); receipts were \$1,185 bringing the net cost of the reception to \$293.37. Chair Schertz stated that a request from Studio 35 for funding would be on the next agenda. She expressed support of a \$900 donation for the production of 1,000 Sonoma Art Walk maps.

Minutes of the October 8, 2015 Meeting – Approved by unanimous consensus.

Presentation regarding the proposed General Vallejo Monument (the Commission's role per the Public Art Policy would be to make a recommendation to the City Council to either accept or deny the gift of public art.)

Members of the General Vallejo Monument Committee (Robert Demler, George McKale, and Michael Ross) presented the proposal for a life sized statue of General M. G. Vallejo, seated on a bench, to be placed on the north side of the Plaza and across Spain Street from the former location of Vallejo's Casa Grande, his original home. They stated that the 2000 Treasure Artist, Jim Callahan, had been commissioned to create the monument.

Commissioner Ransom stated the following: *"I have concerns that this is a less than respectful portrayal of Gen. Vallejo, as a seated individual on a park bench. Would "Kodak moments become distasteful" when the general public could and most likely will create less than honorable vignettes with such a casually portrayed statue? I have no problem with honoring Vallejo with a statue, I just question the appropriateness of this particular figure/design."* Mr. Demler responded that the General loved his grandchildren and them crawling all over him. Mr. Ross added that the monument was meant to be participatory.

Commissioners Carlsson and Chair Schertz appreciated the sitting position and participatory feel of the monument. Carlsson stated it would provide an additional tool to educate children of the Sonoma history.

Commissioner Cravens expressed concern about potential vandalism.

Commissioner Kuhry, referencing a letter to the editor from Bob Parmelee, stated her agreement with him that prior to the installation of any monuments in the Plaza a plan needed to be in place. She feared the Plaza would eventually become littered with monuments. Commissioner Personette agreed with Kuhry. Mr. Demler stated that the City was currently working on development guidelines for the Plaza area.

Thomas Haeuser explained that the Plaza Tree Planting plan came about because everyone who had a loved one pass away wanted to plant memorial trees in the Plaza. There were too many proposals to accept them all so a plan was created. He stated a plan needed to be in place prior to installation of this or any other monument.

It was moved by Commissioner Cravens, seconded by Commissioner Carlsson, to recommend approval of the installation to the City Council. The motion failed with the following roll call vote: AYES: Cravens, Carlsson, Schertz. NOES: Ransom, Kuhry, Personette. ABSENT: Ontko, Ryan.

Review of Student Artist Award submittals and determination of interview schedule

Upon referral to their calendars, Commissioners agreed to the following schedule for interviews of the students: February 24, 3-6 p.m.; February 25, 4-7 p.m. They also agreed to schedule meetings on March 3 and April 28.

Consideration of hosting a poetry program (Commissioner Kuhry)

Commissioner Kuhry presented information regarding the possibility of the Commission hosting an event to celebrate the art of poetry. Commissioner Ransom and Chair Schertz agreed to serve on the committee. Kuhry will do some leg work and report back at the next meeting.

Selection of presenter at the May 19, 2016 SVHS Awards Ceremony

Commissioner Carlsson volunteered to make the presentation on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Remarks – Chair Schertz announced she would be out of the country May 3 through June 14.

Future Agenda Items – March 3, 2016: Selection of the Student Art Award Recipient, FY 2016/17 Budget request, consideration of annual calendar and scheduling of the Treasure Artist and Student Award program, funding for the Art Walk maps, Celebration of Poetry event.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Johann
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk