



ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Nancy de Y. Elkus, Chair - present
Coleen Byrne, Vice Chair - present
Lizelle Green – present
Victoria Mimiaga – present
Farrah Spott - present
Sharon Valentino - present

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory Notice: The health and safety of community members, public officials, and employees is the top priority for the City of Mill Valley. In compliance with local and state shelter-in-place orders, and as allowed by Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), the City will no longer offer an in-person meeting location for the public to attend this meeting. Members of the Arts Commission or staff may participate in this meeting electronically or via teleconference.

How the public can participate in the meeting via teleconference:
Call: 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 824 1164 8020 Password: 488776

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENT:

Before the Meeting: Due to the constraints of remote meetings, we strongly encourage commenters to submit written comments at least one day prior to the public hearing. Email your comments to artscommission@cityofmillvalley.org no later than Tuesday February 9th @ 3pm and they will be forwarded to the Arts Commission and included in the public record. Be sure to include the agenda item number you are addressing, as well as your full name and address.

During the meeting (only): written public comments will be accepted via e-mails submitted to: artscommission@cityofmillvalley.org. Comments received during the hearing will be limited to 200 words to allow for their reading into the record during Public Open Time.

CALL TO ORDER

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ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Interim Director Sean McGrew and Senior Administrative Aide Lauren Buchholz

PUBLIC OPEN TIME: Persons wishing to address the Commission on subjects not on the agenda may do so at this time. State law prohibits Commission action on any item not listed on the agenda unless Commission determines that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the City’s attention after the agenda was posted. Other items will generally be referred to staff or received as information. When addressing the Commission, please: 1) State your name and address; 2) Address the Chair; 3) State your views succinctly; 4) Avoid repetition; 5) Limit comments to 3 minutes. **Please note: The Chair will allow time for public comment on each agenda item.**

Chair Elkus opened public open time.

Councilmember Urban Carmel stated it is he pleasure to attend the meeting; he is always interested in what the Arts Commission is doing. He expressed his sincere gratitude and stated anything he can do to help; just reach out.

Chair Elkus closed public open time.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ORDER

It was **MOVED** by **Commissioner Valentino** and **SECONDED Vice Chair Byrne** by to Approve the Agenda Order. The Motion was carried by a 6 - 0 vote with **None** dissenting.

CONSENT CALENDAR: The following items listed on the Consent Calendar to be considered routine and are approved by a single motion without discussion. The Chair or any member of the Commission or the public may request that any item listed under the Consent Calendar be removed and action taken separately. In the event that an item is removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be considered in its numerical order.

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting.
Recommended Action: Approve the December 8, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting minutes.

It was **MOVED** by **Commissioner Mimiaga** and **SECONDED** by **Vice Chair Byrne** to Approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by a 6 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

COMMISSION AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Elkus reported that Pamela Livingston has resigned as emeritus Commissioner.
Chair Elkus also reported that Commissioner Pakenham has resigned as an Arts Commissioner but would like to continue to run concerts in the Plaza and is happy to help in any way possible.
Interim Director McGrew stated the vacancy notice will go out again to the public as well as the most recent applicants will be notified directly about the vacancy.

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76 **Interim Director McGrew** stated that the City Council will respond to the DEI Task Force report at
77 the February 18 meeting. He also reported that the Mill Valley Community Center will be celebrating
78 its 20th anniversary on Monday, May 31, 2020 and asked all Commissioners to hold the date and details
79 will follow.

80 **Chair Elkus** stated that the Annual Arts Commission report will go to City Council at their meeting on
81 February 18.

82 **Vice Chair Byrne** asked all commissioners to visit the Facebook page of Tim Ryan’s share your heart
83 Mill Valley to see were people of posted pictures of themselves holding the metal hearts that Tim has
84 fashioned.

85

86 **OLD BUSINESS**

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88 1. Concerts in the Plaza Update. Recommended Action: Receive and Discuss Information

89 **Interim Director McGrew** reported that Sean Pakenham was in touch with all the bands that
90 were selected for 2020 and they are all on board to play for 2021. He also was able to confirm
91 that sound engineer Lou Johnson will be able to provide services in 2021.

92 **Vice Chair Byrne** asked at what point does the arts commission move forward with planning for
93 concerts in the Plaza versus putting them on hold again for 2021.

94 **Interim Director McGrew** stated that staff is looking at two months out to decide on whether
95 concerts in the Plaza will be able to happen and that’s when outreach would begin if the concerts
96 can move forward. He recommends making that decision mid to the end of June.

97 **Commissioner Green** asked if Sean Pakenham had inquired with the bands about the possibility
98 of doing a virtual concert if necessary.

99 **Interim Director McGrew** replied that he was not sure if that question was asked.

100 **Vice Chair Byrne** asked about the possibility of doing the concerts via a flatbed truck and
101 driving through town; this was an idea that Sean Pakenham brought up for 2020.

102 **Chair Elkus** expressed her concerns about noise decibels that the band could play at while
103 moving through town.

104 **Interim Director McGrew** stated that all of this is depending on where we are in the Covid
105 restrictions and guidelines; there may still be concerns about creating a crowd or social
106 gatherings while the truck moves through the town.

107 **Vice Chair Byrne** wondered if changing the performances to acoustic could alleviate some
108 concerns about noise decibels; bands could possibly play at trail bases or in parks as
109 “background” music.

110 **Chair Elkus** asked if there was any possibility of using the field behind the community center
111 for a greater social distance space for concerts and asked if the fields would be available on a
112 Saturday or Sunday during the summer.

113 **Interim Director McGrew** reported that all the fields are booked for youth sports organization
114 play. Labor Day weekend could be available if the Soccer Fest event is not able to happen.

115 **Public Communications:** None

116

117 2. First Tuesday ArtWalk/Call for Artists Update. Recommended Action: Receive and
118 Discuss Information.

119 **Interim Director McGrew** stated the virtual art walks continue monthly. Once we are able to
120 bring back in person art exhibitions and receptions priority will be given to the artist that were

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121 selected for 2020 shows; there should be enough artists to get us through 2021 for First Tuesday
122 ArtWalks.

123 **Public Communications:** Email from Gilda Harger.

124 **Interim Director McGrew** reviewed email received from Gilda asking why the February art
125 walk was not dedicated to BIPOC artists to honor Black history month. He stated that when the
126 next call for artwork comes out, February could be reserved to honor Black history month by
127 encouraging BIPOC artists to submit artwork.

128

129 3. Public Art Projects Sub-Committee or Staff Updates. Recommended Action: Receive and
130 Discuss Information and Direct Sub-Committee and/or Staff as Necessary.

131

132 a. Public Art Installations (Sculpture & Bench)

133 **Interim Director McGrew** reported that he is working on setting up a new date with Chuck
134 Oakander to install the art bench; it will be in the early morning to try avoiding any public
135 contact during installation. He will send out an email to the Arts Commissioners and the
136 Chamber once the installation date has been scheduled.

137 **Interim Director McGrew** reported that he now has the verbiage for the dedication plaque for
138 the sculpture. He will be meeting this week with DPW staff regarding the installation schedule.

139 **Vice Chair Byrne** reported she is working on gathering information in regard to the piece and
140 reaching out to the artist via email to try to get some type of a virtual interview or have a detailed
141 conversation with him; she is hoping to incorporate the artist somehow in the dedication when
142 that's able to happen. May need to do initial dedication virtually and do an official ribbon-cutting
143 once social gathering is allowed.

144 **Chair Elkus** asked if **Commissioner Valentino** would like to be looped in on any ongoing
145 conversations with the artist.

146 **Commissioner Valentino** confirmed that yes, she would like to be part of any ongoing
147 conversations.

148 **Chair Elkus** open the public open time and welcome comments.

149 Councilmember Carmel stated he is happy to promote Arts Commission events and projects at
150 council meetings.

151

152 b. Neighborhood Stories Sub-Committee

153 **Chair Elkus** provided an overview of the project. She reported that Steve Morrow is continuing
154 to work on securing funding and booking performers; the areas of performance will include
155 Marin city. He does not have any definite performance dates yet. She stated that Steve may need
156 help from staff ahead of time in creating a map of the performance locations and it would be
157 great to have the arts commission's assistance during the day of the performances.

158 **Interim Director McGrew** reported that he is looking at ways to help deal with donations;
159 possibly working through the city for neighborhood stories. He will have more information to
160 provide to **Chair Elkus** and Steve in the near future.

161

162 c. Mill Valley Zoo Project

163 **Commissioner Spott** reported that the information on the Mill Valley Zoo project has gone out
164 in the City's MVConnect newsletter.

165 **Commissioner Green** asked if any of the wire animal sculptures have gone up yet.

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166 **Chair Elkus** stated that there are some on Teresa’s fence. She asked if it would be appropriate to
167 post the SLP numbers where the wire animal sculpture can be found.

168 **Commissioner Valentino** stated that when Little Libraries are put up each person needed to
169 confirm that it was okay to list their home address where people could find the little Libraries.

170 **Interim Director McGrew** stated it really depends on where the wire sculptures are; they could
171 be identified by just the SLP number. This seems to be the simplest and clearest way to get the
172 information to the public.

173

174 **NEW BUSINESS**

175

176 4. Addition of Gallery Space in Aquatics & Fitness Center Lobby for Diversity, Equity &
177 Inclusion (DEI) Focused First Tuesday ArtWalks. Recommended Action: Receive and
178 Discuss Information and Consider for Approval.

179 **Interim Director McGrew** reviewed his presentation.

180 **Commissioner Green** expressed concerns about the environment in the Aquatics and Fitness
181 lobby and the potential of wet hair and towels coming into contact with the artwork.

182 **Interim Director McGrew** stated that artists are informed of the location before submitting their
183 artwork during a Call for Art.

184 **Commissioner Mimiaga** stated it could be possible to recommend to the artist that they seal
185 their work to protect it from moisture.

186 **Chair Elkus** stated the moisture might limit what artists are willing to show their work in this
187 location.

188 **Commissioner Valentino** stated with public art, location is always going to dictate what can go
189 there. Artists would need to accommodate to a space being offered; not every medium is
190 appropriate for every space.

191 **Chair Elkus** expressed that the Arts Commission needs to be careful in offering spaces that may
192 seem to be less than other spaces. It would be great to get open storefronts to display artwork in
193 downtown Mill Valley like the San Francisco Arts Commission has done.

194 **Commissioner Mimiaga** agreed.

195 **Commissioner Valentino** stated she is all for that idea but wondered how San Francisco Arts
196 Commission solved the liability concerns of artists entering other people’s properties and
197 potentially damaging something or an injury occurring when the artist was on site.

198 **Commissioner Mimiaga** stated she would speak with a contact she has at Open Studios to find
199 out how they have handled those types of concerns.

200 **Chair Elkus** welcomed public comment at this time.

201 **Zoe Fry, Shell Road.** She stated she had two questions regarding this topic. Firstly, who is the
202 Committee working on this and what BIPOC members will be part of the formation and provide
203 input on the language used in the Call for Artwork. Secondly, she stated the placement is good
204 and acknowledges it is a great space for visibility but encouraged the Arts Commission to not
205 stop there. What about downtown, it is very important to keep thinking about that for more by
206 BIPOC artwork. She stated the Arts Commission has done a good job in taking the initiative by
207 the taking the lead in getting the DEI initiatives going.

208 **Eileen Fisher, Vista Linda Drive.** She reiterated what Zoe said and ask what members of the
209 BIPOC Community is the Arts Commission planning to reach out to as it is very important to
210 have them part of the whole process.

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211 **Interim Director McGrew** stated the next steps would be for him to meet with DPW staff
212 regarding logistics of adding art hanging equipment to the Aquatics and Fitness Center lobby.
213 Then, working with members of the DEI Task Force to gather input to help develop the process
214 and to bring back to the Arts Commission with recommendations. The Call for Artwork would
215 run very similar to how the First Tuesday process has worked; the Arts Commission would
216 request submissions then select the artwork to be displayed and assist in the curation the artwork
217 with the artist.

218 **Chair Elkus** stated she will do some research on the effects of moisture on artwork, she can't
219 imagine much damage would be caused especially since the artwork will only be in that space
220 for a month. She stated since space has been opened up for art, she wants to make sure that it is
221 used for art.

222 **Commissioner Mimiaga** agreed with Zoe's comments that other spaces should continue to be
223 made available for art in Mill Valley.
224

225 **It was MOVED by Commissioner Mimiaga and SECONDED by Commissioner Green** to
226 Approve the Addition of Gallery Space in Aquatics & Fitness Center Lobby for Diversity,
227 Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Focused First Tuesday ArtWalks. The motion was carried by a 6 – 0
228 vote with **None** abstaining.
229

230 **STAFF AND COMMISSION REQUESTS AND IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION**

231 **Interim Director McGrew** confirmed Commissioner requests for upcoming meetings to be:

- 232 • Creation of a walking tour for public art in Mill Valley
 - 233 • A formal Thank You to be issued to Paula Reynolds
 - 234 • Creation of a Public Art catalog
 - 235 • Chair & Vice Chair nominations & elections.
- 236

237 **ADJOURNMENT** – To the next Regular Commission meeting, which will be held on Tuesday,
238 March 9, 2021 at 7pm at The Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley, CA
239 94941.
240

241 **It was MOVED by Vice Chair Byrne and SECONDED by Commissioner Spott** to Adjourn
242 the Regular meeting. The motion was carried by a 6 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.
243