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**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
TUESDAY MARCH 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

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

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18 How the public can participate in the meeting via teleconference:
19 **Call: 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 840 5082 0949 Password: 809763**

20 **HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENT:**

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

26 During the meeting (only): written public comments will be accepted via e-mails submitted to:
27 artscommission@cityofmillvalley.org. Comments received during the hearing will be limited to
28 200 words to allow for their reading into the record during Public Open Time.

29 **CALL TO ORDER**

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ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ORDER

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

Nominations and Election of Arts Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Valentino nominated Vice Chair Byrne.

Chair Elkus asked if there were any other nominations.

No additional nominations were made.

It was **MOVED** by **Commissioner Green** and **SECONDED** by **Commissioner Mimiaga** to Elect Vice Chair Byrne as Chairperson. The Motion was carried by a 6 - 0 vote with **None** dissenting.

Nominations and Election of Arts Commission Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Valentino nominated Commissioner Elkus.

Chair Byrne asked if there were any other nominations.

No additional nominations were made.

It was **MOVED** by **Commissioner Valentino** and **SECONDED** by **Commissioner Green** to Elect Commission Elkus as Vice Chairperson. The Motion was carried by a 6 - 0 vote with **None** dissenting.

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 Byrne opened public open time.

Interim Dir. McGrew read public comment from Mill Valley resident Hugh Kuhn, see attached.

Chair Byrne closed public open time.

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

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76 Commission or the public may request that any item listed under the Consent Calendar be
77 removed and action taken separately. In the event that an item is removed from the Consent
78 Calendar, it shall be considered in its numerical order.

- 79
80 1. Consideration of the Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting.
81 Recommended Action: Approve the February 9, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting
82 minutes.

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84 **It was MOVED by Commissioner Valentino and SECONDED by Commissioner Green** to
85 Approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by a 6 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

86
87 **COMMISSION AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

88
89 No Commission or Staff announcements were made.

90
91 **OLD BUSINESS**

- 92
93 1. COVID Guidelines and Restrictions Update. Recommended Action: Receive and Discuss
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95 **Interim Dir McGrew** reviewed his presentation as well as some adjustments that needed to be
96 made sense the presentation was published but basically things are getting better.

97 **Chair Byrne** asked at what point should the arts commission take upcoming events off the table.
98 Interim director McGrew stated events should not come off the table they just may need to be
99 adjusted; potentially looking at virtual options.

- 100
101 2. Public Art Projects Sub-Committee or Staff Updates. Recommended Action: Receive and
102 Discuss Information and Direct Sub-Committee and/or Staff as Necessary.

103
104 a. Public Art Installations (Sculpture & Bench)

105 **Interim Dir McGrew** reported the pad for the sculpture has been installed and he is working
106 with staff and chair Byrne on installation date; he's hoping for the end of next week and will
107 make sure photos are taken during the installation.

108 **Interim Dir McGrew** stated Parks Supervisor Torre and Chuck Oakander will be meeting next
109 week to discuss the final installation plans and placement. He will make sure to document the
110 installation with photos and possibly video.

111
112 b. Rotating Public Art in Downtown Sub-Committee

113 **Commissioner Valentino** reported that she met with the owners of the Depot Café and
114 Bookstore and they agreed that public art could be put up along the wall in the archway that
115 faces Equator Coffee. The Commission is hoping to install a board in the same shape of the arch
116 so that artwork could be attached to the board, she is working with City staff on materials needed
117 and the installation of the board.

118 **Commissioner Mimiaga** reported she's been in touch with the owners of Boo Koo and they are
119 very interested as well, she's also working on getting in touch with the Throckmorton Theater
120 owner to see if they are interested in having public art at their site.

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121 **Commissioner Valentino** asked **Interim Dir McGrew** to report on the types of material that
122 might be used and what the call for artwork would look like.

123 **Interim Dir McGrew** stated the materials used need to be moisture resistant; he feels Lauan
124 plywood may be the best option.

125 **Commissioner Valentino** stated the vision was to have artists attach their artwork directly to the
126 wood at the edges or wrap around to the back so no damage would be done to the wood and each
127 artist would have a clean flat surface to attach the next piece of artwork on to.

128 **Interim Dir McGrew** stated he will be working with Operation Superintendent Boyd regarding
129 specifics on how this might work and what are the best materials to use and options for
130 installation.

131 **Commissioner Valentino** stated she would like to achieve the simplest way to get the artwork
132 up and taken down for each rotation. She also stated this project is a work in progress, there have
133 been some delays with working with owners and releasers of buildings downtown.

134 **Chair Byrne** asked if there was any idea of the timeframe to launch this project.

135 **Commissioner Valentino** stated there still lots to do, materials need to be selected installation
136 issues need to be worked out a call for artwork needs to be put together artist contracts need to be
137 created which may require approval from city Council and/or the city attorney.

138 **Interim Dir McGrew** stated this summer could be a realistic goal without any Covid
139 interruptions. When it comes to public art it is best to be deliberate in movements.

140

141 c. Neighborhood Stories Sub-Committee

142 **Chair Elkus** stated this project is moving forward the dates are tentative but nothing is official.
143 She stated they have found a source to accept donations called Marin Link. She's very excited
144 about this project and advertising will begin as soon as dates are solidified.

145

146 3. Discuss Potential Projects & Process for Activating the Plaza. Recommended Action:
147 Discuss and Consider Establishing a Sub-Committee.

148 **Chair Byrne** stated she would like to discuss the possibility of creating a sub-committee to
149 continue to work on this project and asked if there are any volunteers.

150 **Commissioner Mimiaga** agreed that there is a lot of attention on the Plaza but there are other
151 areas to activate as well. She asked if the Commission would consider expanding the vision in
152 areas such as Miller Avenue.

153 **Vice Chair Elkus** suggested something along the lines of activate Mill Valley.

154 **Commissioner Valentino** stated the Chamber's specific vision was to activate the Plaza.

155 **Commissioner Mimiaga** suggested a bigger area to expand that vision.

156 **Vice Chair Elkus** stated there may be a way to do both.

157 **Chair Byrne** stated Activate the Plaza was started way before Covid, how do we activate the
158 community post Covid. She's curious as to what the Chamber's thoughts are now and if they still
159 want to continue their focus on just downtown.

160 **Commissioner Valentino** suggested that Chair Byrne speak with Paula Reynolds from the
161 Chamber to see where they stand now on the concept of activate the Plaza.

162 **Commissioner Green** stated the need to keep in mind the Arts Commission's bandwidth.

163 **Chair Byrne** asked who would like to be on the subcommittee once she speaks with the chamber
164 to get a better understanding of where their scope is.

165 Commissioner Mimiaga and Vice Chair Elkus volunteered to be on the subcommittee with Chair
166 Byrne.

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NEW BUSINESS

4. Consider a Collaboration Between Mill Valley Arts Commission and Mill Valley Historical Society for the Return of Engine No. 9 Community Events and Public Art, presented by Eric Macris, President of the Mill Valley Historical Society. Recommended Action: Receive and Discuss Information and Consider Collaboration and/or Direct Staff as Necessary.

Eric reviewed his presentation which included the history of the evolution of the Plaza and the railways, the potential Plaza expansion, and the possible placement of Engine No. 9 in the area where the Plaza may be expanded. He stated by bringing something like Engine No. 9 to the downtown Plaza and combining Mill Valley’s natural beauty with history could increase the vitality of downtown. He is hoping to get the Arts Commission’s support for community arts project that would include the creation of a scale model of Engine No. 9 and invite third-graders to paint the model and place it on the Plaza. He feels this could get the community engaged in the conversation of if this is something Mill Valley wants and where it should be placed. He’s also been speaking with the state parks about potentially putting Engine No. 9 at the top of Mount Tam.

Vice Chair Elkus thanked Eric for his presentation.

Commissioner Mimiaga stated she thinks it’s a great idea and another way to bring community together. She asked what would happen to the gravity car that is already on the Plaza.

Eric stated he’s not sure what would happen to the gravity car.

Commissioner Valentino asked Eric what the best way for the Arts Commission would be to support him.

Eric stated although he does not yet have certainty that Engine No. 9 will be able to come to Mill Valley, he is proposing the creation of a full-size model which can be turned into a public art project to get the community engaged in the idea of bringing Engine No. 9 to Mill Valley.

Interim Dir. McGrew stated the overall project of bringing Engine No. 9 to Mill Valley would be something that would be up to the City Council to decide. The Arts Commission would be involved at the community art project level only.

Eric agreed and stated he is specifically asking for support on the potential public art project but would also love support from the Arts Commission in the long term plan on where to place the engine. He does not yet have a budget but a token amount of a donation from the Arts Commission would show support as well.

Chair Byrne asked if Eric has spoken with Kiddo, as they are the providers of arts in the public schools, and it would be important to get them involved. She also asked what the next steps would be for the Arts Commission regarding this potential project.

Interim Dir. McGrew stated that the recommended actions for this topic is to consider a collaboration or direct staff as necessary.

Commissioner Valentino asked if more information is needed before voicing support; she suggested agendaing this topic for more detailed conversation.

Interim Dir. McGrew agreed that the Commission could voice their support in theory but would need additional information to approve a specific public art project.

Vice Chair Elkus asked how long Eric thought the scale model would be in the Plaza if this project moves forward.

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213 Eric stated possibly a few weeks and then maybe move to the community center, it will not be a
214 permanent fixture.

215 Chair Byrne asked what Eric’s timeline for the project was.

216 Eric stated he’s being unrealistically optimistic but would like to see the project move forward as
217 soon as possible but he understands it is not a fully baked idea at this point.

218 **Commissioner Valentino** stated she would like the Arts Commission to support this idea in
219 some way but feels it should not move forward without getting partnerships from Kiddo and/or
220 the Chamber of Commerce.

221 Eric stated he will also be getting support from other organizations and the Friends of Engine
222 No. 9.

223 **Chair Byrne** suggested agendaizing a project update for the next meeting. She stated that she and
224 Eric can reach out to Kiddo and the Chamber of Commerce to see if they are interested in
225 partnering on this project.

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

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229 **Vice Chair Elkus** requested an update on the Perspectives art project, Chair Byrne seconded.

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231 **ADJOURNMENT** – To the next Regular Commission meeting, which will be held on Tuesday,
232 April 13, 2021 at 7pm at The Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley, CA
233 94941.

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235 **It was MOVED by Commissioner Valentino and SECONDED by Vice Chair Elkus** to
236 Adjourn the Regular meeting. The motion was carried by a 6 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

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