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**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

10
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.**

17
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 March 9th @ 3pm and
24 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.

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29 **CALL TO ORDER**

30

31 **ROLL CALL**

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

33

34 **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ORDER**

35

36 It was **MOVED** by **Commissioner Valentino** and **SECONDED Vice Chair Elkus** by to
37 Approve the Agenda Order. The Motion was carried by a 7 - 0 vote with **None** dissenting.

38

39 **Introduction of New Arts Commissioner:** Jeffrey Harris

40

41 **Chair Byrne** introduced Commissioner Harris.

42 **Commissioner Harris** reviewed his background and experience.

43

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

52

53 **Chair Byrne** opened public open time.

54

55 Senior Administrative Adie read public comment from Amy Faulkner.

56

57 **Chair Byrne** closed public open time.

58

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

64

- 65 1. Consideration of the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting.
66 Recommended Action: Approve the March 9, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting
67 minutes.

68

69 **It was MOVED** by **Commissioner Harris** and **SECONDED** by **Vice Chair Elkus** to Approve
70 the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by a 7 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

71

72 **OLD BUSINESS**

73

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74 2. Public Art Projects Sub-Committee or Staff Updates. Recommended Action: Receive and
75 Discuss Information and Direct Sub-Committee and/or Staff as Necessary.
76

77 a. Public Art Installations (Sculpture & Bench)

78 **Interim Dir. McGrew** reported that the sculpture has successfully been installed and staff is
79 working on the dedication plaque and organizing a formal ribbon-cutting. He reported that the
80 Oakander bench installation has been delayed due to conflicts of schedule with staff and the
81 artist; he will continue to work to find and install date and will inform the Commissioners as
82 soon as that date is set.

83 **Vice Chair Elkus** suggested that staff start writing the press release now and get it ready to send
84 as soon as the install date is set.
85

86 b. Rotating Public Art in Downtown Sub-Committee

87 **Interim Dir. McGrew** reported that he met with Operation Superintendent Boyd at the Plaza to
88 discuss installation and mounting ideas. They both agreed that the original idea did not seem like
89 the best option, there were concerns about wrapping a canvas around an arch shaped backing.
90 They discussed the possibility of providing a precut piece of wood to the artist which then could
91 be attached to existing installation equipment in the arch space. Operation Superintendent Boyd
92 will be meeting with a cabinetmaker to discuss other ideas.

93 **Commissioner Valentino** stated this seems very complicated but is willing to hear ideas.

94 **Commissioner Harris** suggested putting the artwork under glass to help protect it.

95 **Commissioner Valentino** stated since the artwork is outside it would be very easy for the glass
96 to be broken.

97 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated glass would not be used most likely would be plexiglass which is
98 less likely to scratch and would only need to be replaced possibly yearly.

99 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated he is asked operation Superintendent Boyd to come back with
100 suggested options and cost to be reported to the Arts Commission.

101 **Vice Chair Elkus** stated she would like to be present at the next meeting with **Interim Dir.**
102 **McGrew** and Operation Superintendent Boyd to discuss installation ideas.

103 **Commissioner Valentino** stated she believes the simpler the idea the better, and is concerned
104 about other organizations trying to take over the Plaza in regards to public art.

105 **Commissioner Harris** asked if other sites had been suggested in the downtown area for public
106 art.

107 **Commissioner Valentino** stated since there is no real budget for this program the subcommittee
108 decided to select one site to work through costs and installation challenges first.
109

110 c. Activate the Plaza Sub-Committee

111 **Chair Byrne** reported that she spoke with Jim Welte and Paula Reynolds of the Chamber of
112 Commerce who stated they are in support of the following projects coming to the Plaza; the
113 return of knitting us together, temporary art on the Plaza, silent disco, ballroom dancing with the
114 Starduster Orchestra on the Plaza, the possible painting of the barricades that are used to block
115 off the streets during outdoor dining, and crosswalk painting.

116 **Commissioner Valentino** stated she is not in support of the Arts Commission giving money
117 towards projects that are not specifically art. She suggested the Chamber might be able to
118 provide some funds to paint the barricades downtown while also possibly being able to use the
119 same paint to put towards the Engine No 9 art project.

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120 **Chair Byrne** stated she really wants to look into getting silent disco on the Plaza, she asked if
121 the Arts Commission could book a date on the Plaza for this.

122 **Interim Dir. McGrew** agreed that a date could be selected and booked for the Plaza but then the
123 project would have to go back to the Parks and Recreation commission on consent for approval
124 since it had already been approved for 2020 before it was canceled.

125 **Commissioner Green** asked if people would be provided headsets or would they have to bring
126 their own to participate in silent tics disco.

127 **Chair Byrne** stated the silent disco company would provide the equipment but wondered how
128 we could make it safe for people with continued coven concerns.

129 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated the company would have to submit their protocols to make sure
130 that they are operating within safety guidelines.

131 **Vice Chair Elkus** stated she would contact the company that they had originally spoke to and
132 find out what their protocols are as well as their availability and cost.

133 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated he will work with **Chair Byrne** to identify some potential dates for
134 this event. He reported that unfortunately the bandleader of the Stardust or orchestra has passed
135 away he will try to follow up with them regarding a possible Plaza performance.

136 **Commissioner Valentino** suggested the commission doesn't designate a member to pursue
137 funding via the Community Reinvestment Act, as funding from this could pay for a great deal of
138 the activate the Plaza projects or events.

139 **Vice Chair Elkus** stated she would do some of the leg work on getting information about this.

140 **Commissioner Spott** stated there was a lot of discussion regarding crosswalks during a Design
141 Review Committee meeting she attended. A lot of concern was expressed about safety in the
142 crosswalks that are painted. She stated there could be the possibility of temporary decals in a
143 portion of the crosswalks could be considered as they would be easily reversible if necessary.

144 **Chair Byrne** asked if the commissioners would like to do the knitting us together project again.

145 **Vice Chair Elkus** stated the Commission might want to think about rotating out certain projects.

146 **Chair Byrne** asked Vice Chair Elkus if she had any suggestions of a project that could take the
147 place of knitting us together for 2021.

148 **Chair Byrne** then asked if the arts commission would want to investigate more temporary art on
149 the Plaza.

150 All agreed, yes.

151 **Commissioner Mimiaga** asked if the Commission would be interested in bringing back the
152 painting in the Plaza where artists could bring their own supplies and the Arts Commission
153 would just need to put out an invitation for people to come and paint on the Plaza, doesn't need
154 to be a contest. She feels this would invite diversity downtown and bring people in from outside
155 of Mill Valley. She stated she is willing to work on this project to find out more information and
156 bring back options to the Commission.

157 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated if this is a project the Arts Commission would like to do there will
158 need to be approval from at least the Parks and Recreation Commission to do this on the Plaza,
159 Department of Public Works might need to be involved depending on the number of people the
160 Commission foresees being on the Plaza during this event.

161 **Commissioner Valentino** stated the Arts Commission really needs to pick and choose what has
162 the most value for the Arts Commission to pursue, even with seven members on the Commission
163 there has still been a loss of most of the staff support from the Recreation Department.

164 **Commissioner Green** stated that projects will need an Arts Commission point person.

165

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166 d. Perspectives Public Art Project

167 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated he is hoping to meet with Zoe Fry and former members from the
168 DEI task force this week and hopes to bring back an update to the Commission at the next
169 meeting.

170
171 e. Engine No. 9 Public Art Collaboration

172 **Eric Macris**, Mill Valley Historical Society, reviewed his presentation which included proposed
173 placement and 3D drawings of the proposed scale model the Engine No 9 community art project.
174 Since he last spoke at the March Arts Commission meeting, he has meet with Amanda Reeves of
175 Kiddo and attended a Mill Valley Design Advisory Committee stakeholder meeting where he
176 learned more about the City’s plan to develop the next stage of design work on the Plaza
177 expansion, with construction possible starting next year. The estimated cost of the scale model is
178 \$5.1K which does not include time or materials to paint the model. He is hoping the Arts
179 Commission will lend their support for this project as well as offer a donation towards funding of
180 the project.

181 **Commissioner Green** asked if kids would be able to climb and touch the steam engine and/or
182 the scale model of the engine.

183 **Eric** stated there would need to be a balance of desire to climb and touch the engine versus
184 safety concerns, there is no set plan yet in to address this regarding the actual engine. The current
185 scale model design would not allow for anyone climbing on it as it could cause damage to the
186 model as it would not be made of durable enough materials.

187 **Commissioner Harris** suggested possibly building a walkway around the engine so people
188 could walk up look in but not climb. He also suggested that summer camps might be a good
189 resource for painting of the scale model pieces.

190 **Commissioner Mimiaga** stated it would be great if the history of the train was written into the
191 school curriculum so the students understood the history of it before they might paint it.

192 **Vice Chair Elkus** suggested incorporating patterns and/or artwork from the era of the railway
193 such as samples of Miwok art.

194 **Commissioner Valentino** asked if Eric had explored grants to fund the project.

195 Eric stated there has been discussion about it, but no one has yet looked into any grants.

196 **Interim Dir. McGrew** stated all of Eric’s drawing show placement of the scale model as if the
197 Plaza extension has occurred, he asked if Eric had any drawings to show where the model would
198 be placed without the Plaza extension.

199 **Eric** stated he does have those drawings and he can send that to staff and the Arts
200 Commissioners after this meeting. He would like the city to place temporary barricades to
201 indicate what the Plaza expansion might look like and allow for the placement of the scale model
202 on the roadway between the barricades.

203 **Commissioner Valentino** stated the Arts Commission’s budget is very tight and would like to
204 see it spent on the arts before projects of historical significance.

205 **Eric** stated he feels one way the Arts Commission could help show their support and legitimize
206 the project would be by donating towards it.

207 **Chair Byrne** stated she will add an item to the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the
208 endorsement of the project and potential donation.

209

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210 3. Neighborhood Stories Sub-Committee Update and Consideration to Approve a Donation
211 of \$500 for the project. Recommended Action: Receive Update and Consider Approval of
212 Donation.

213 **Chair Byrne** reported that neighborhood stories kicked off last week and the Arts Commission
214 has been promoting this via social media. The organizers are asking for \$500 donation from the
215 Arts Commission to help support this project.

216
217 **It was MOVED by Vice Chair Elkus and SECONDED by Commissioner Valentino** to
218 Approve a \$500 donation to the Neighborhood Stories Art Project. The motion was carried by a
219 7 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

220

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

222

223 **Chair Byrne** requested discussion on the following:

224 Social Media Posting Guidelines for Commissioners review

225 Concerts in the Plaza update

226 Consideration of Endorsement and Donation for Engine No 9 Community Art Project

227 Public Arts updates

228 Activate the Plaza updates

229

230 **ADJOURNMENT** – To the next Regular Commission meeting, which will be held on Tuesday,
231 May 11, 2021 at 7pm at The Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley, CA
232 94941.

233

234 **It was MOVED by Vice Chair Elkus** to Adjourn the Regular meeting. The motion was carried
235 by a 7 – 0 vote with **None** abstaining.

236