

San Anselmo Arts Commission (SAAC)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting: March 17, 2021
via Zoom

1. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call: Commissioners/Town Representatives present: Kerrie McHugh, Kathy Edwards, Piper Bruner, Elizabeth Grasso, Kathee Shatter, Addison Bugas, Barbara Shands, Mattie O'Grady (Town Liaison) Dannielle Mauk

Absent: none

3. Approval of March 8, 2021 Minutes: approved

4. Public Expression (non agenda items): none

5. Action Items:

A. Sidewalk Art Project

Public Expression:

- Laurie Berliner: Submitted letter covering points as to why project should go forward; did Commission review? Original vote in February not listed as action so vote not valid. Re attending meetings – people should be notified more carefully in the future.
- Frank Gomez: Merchant in favor of project; could represent Asian community members. Not understanding why this has become so difficult. Commission should recuse itself and let project go ahead.
- Ann Politzer: Supports project; would be great for merchants

Discussion:

Barbara: We are in learning curve as to our role in public art. No precedent for how to handle controversial info re an artist. As first project brought to us from outside, it's not good precedent for us to continue without master plan for our role.

- Kathy: Offended at a suggestion we may not be supportive of LBGQT or Asian community. Our decision to use another artist was based only on concern that possible social media smearing could hurt artist, merchants, Town and Commission.

- Kathee: We were only asked to review aesthetically. Undoing of process is not good. Is fallout (for public art process, merchants, Commission) by removing ourselves from the project worth it? No.

- Kerrie: We have been doing our job to filter all aspects of a project. Saddened that we would be unfairly vilified over this process when we were only trying to prevent damage to artist's reputation, and because we have given countless volunteer hours to bringing great arts events to the town.

- Elizabeth: We were asked to keep the info confidential but it's disturbing that others have spread it around. We are volunteers that put in a lot of hours and this is not worth the backlash.
- Dannielle: If Commission steps away from project, merchants can request it be put on Town Council agenda.
- Addie: Researched artist; we would not be the first organization to deny due to controversy so is comfortable stepping away. Important to pay attention to these things especially these days.
- Piper: agrees with Addie
- Motion made to end Arts Commission involvement with this project. Vote taken: 6 yes, 1 no. Motion passed.

6. Commission comments & questions, requests for future agenda items

- Discussion: Art on the Avenue, Youth in Arts awards
- Action: Munny Doll project, Scholarships, Youth Art Project

7. Adjournment: 7:48 pm

Next meeting: April 12, 2021 @ 7pm (via zoom)