

Phil Sinco gave a brief overview of the project as presented in the written staff report along with a PowerPoint presentation.

The Planning Commission and staff discussed that while there was poor attendance at the meeting they set up with the stores, they did get positive responses to phone calls and letters.

Glenn Morris, of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, expressed his desire for a little more business friendly language, but that overall he was satisfied. He also discussed alternative storage solutions for the homeless and industry fines with staff.

With no further comments or questions, Chair Dickerson closed the public hearing and called for discussion or a motion.

Commissioner Hernandez made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2733. Commissioner White O'Neill seconded the motion, and it passed, 5-0.

Commissioner Seifert recused himself from Item 4.

ITEM 4 – CITY OF SANTA MARIA PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN. A Special Project (SP2017-0009) for the Recreation and Parks Department for the Public Art Master Plan, and Public Art Program.

ACTION: By **Resolution No. 2734**, recommended that the City Council adopt the Public Art Master Plan SP2017-0009, and Santa Maria Municipal Code, Chapter 10-5, Public Art Program.

VOTE: 3-1-1-0 AYES: Commissioners Maribel Hernandez, Kelly White O'Neill and Chair Robert Dickerson; NOES: Commissioner Tom Lopez; ABSTAINED: Commissioner Tim Seifert; ABSENT: None.

Dennis Smitherman gave a brief overview of the project as presented in the written staff report along with a PowerPoint presentation.

The Planning Commission and staff discussed valuation and placement of art.

Written communication was received from Glenn Morris, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, 614 S Broadway, in opposition of the project citing the funding and implementation measures as outlined.

Written communication was received from Jeff Eckles, Executive Director, Home Builders Association of the Central Coast, P. O. Box 748, San Luis Obispo, in opposition of the project, citing the funding mechanism being proposed in the Art Plan.

Written communication was received from Tom Martinez, Architect, Tom Martinez & Associates, 2624 Air Park Drive, in opposition of the project, citing that the timing is not right to assess another fee to the development community.

Written communication was received from Andy Caldwell, COLAB, P. O. Box 7523, in opposition of the project, citing that it is wrong to force business and property developers/owners to subsidize art and there are artists that would gladly volunteer to have their art in public places.

Written communication was received from Laurie Tamura, AICP, Principal Planner, Urban Planning Concepts, Inc., 2624 Airpark Drive, requesting that the item be pulled from the calendar, citing several areas of the project that she felt hadn't been properly addressed.

Written communication was received from Rick Stollmeyer, Mindbody CEO and Co-Founder, Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo, in support of the project, citing economic benefits to the City, as well as an improved sense of community and belonging.

Written communication was received from Rebecca Carey, in support of the project, citing civic pride.

Written communication was received from Anna Libbon, Director of Operation, Boys & Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley, in support of the project, citing youth improvements and growth.

Written communication was received from Greg Burtnett, Associate Pastor, Grace Baptist Church; Member Community Development Block Grant Committee; Commissioner, Recreation and Park Department; in support of the project, citing art is an investment and the small amount being requested on the developers will enhance the area that they develop.

Judy Gerret 300 E. Park Avenue, representing the Minerva Club, spoke in support of the project, citing that cities that have public art are more pleasant places to live and work and therefore do better economically.

Jeff Eckles, Home Builders Association of the Central Coast of Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County, spoke in opposition of the project, citing severe economic consequences, especially in the housing industry.

Kathy Sharum, 416 E. Hermosa Street, spoke in support of the project, citing that it attracts a skilled work force and safety in the neighborhood.

Glen Morris, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, 614 S. Broadway, spoke in opposition of the project, citing that there are better ways to pay for it.

Dan Blough, 2637 Lorencita, spoke in opposition of the project, citing he does not feel that the fee is legal because it feels like a tax.

Laurie Tamura, spoke in opposition of the project, citing there is no financial plan and that the Ordinance and the Master Plan did not reflect each other.

John Hood, Chairman, Fire Arts Department, Allan Hancock College, 4619 Kenneth Avenue, spoke in support of the project, citing that it brings value to the City, sends a clear message of prosperity, and brings in visitors.

Marti Fast, 1684 Dower Avenue, Arroyo Grande, she is a teacher at Allan Hancock College, a Member of the Art on Campus Committee, the Gallery Director for Ann Foxworthy Gallery and President of the Santa Maria Arts Council. Ms. Fast spoke in support of the project, citing they have had a vibrant expansion of art on campus and she feels the same can be done for the City.

David Dennis, 416 E. Hermosa, spoke in support of the project, citing that developers should support this project because it will increase property and business value.

Judy Frost, 2956 Stardust Court, spoke in support of the project, citing her research of public art shows that it is an important addition to public spaces. It can create pride and attachment to the community.

Craig Shaffer, 515 E. Williams Street; member, Santa Maria Arts Council; spoke in support of the project, citing it will strengthen the local economy and transform the City culturally. He acknowledged that while the developers already endure a lot of fees, this is a drop in the bucket, and benefits will outweigh the costs.

Laura Henderson, 313 E. Los Flores Way, school teacher, spoke in support of the project, citing many of her students never leave Santa Maria. Enhancing the City with public art would enrich the life of those students as well as bring economic growth. She also quoted various California cities that have imposed the percent-for-art program on developers in the recent years.

Staff, as represented by Dennis Smitherman, addressed the public comments to state that 95% of the fee revenue would go to art and 5% would go to administration. He also took note of a large number of builder/developers that were not present at the meeting, stating that as they do business in San Luis Obispo as well as Santa Maria, they know what to expect. Finally, he explained that the art procurement is not going to be a quick process. They want art work that will represent Santa Maria, so it will take some time.

With no further comments or questions, Chair Dickerson closed the public hearing and called for discussion or a motion.

Commissioners discussed with staff AB1600 fees and the legality of the documents presented for approval. They were reminded that this is not a tax or an AB1600 fee, but is within a City's *police power* to impose, such as landscaping and setback requirements.

Commissioners and staff then discussed possible changes to the ordinance regarding in-lieu fees, maintenance, and the possibility of fees imposed on all building permits.

Commissioner White O'Neill made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2734** with modifications to the Ordinance as follows:

1. SECTION 10-5.02.

(g) "Private Development" Remove "...with Building Development Costs equal to or greater than \$250,000.00; excluding private residential projects creating four (4) or fewer units."

2. SECTION 10-5.03

(c) Replace "eighty-five percent" with "ninety-five percent"

3. SECTION 10-5.03

(d) 6. Add " provided however, that these expenses will be paid only from funds paid into the City Arts Fund from in-lieu fees paid in connection with Municipal Construction Projects."

4. SECTION 10-5.05

Remove

(b) Building permits valued at \$100,000 and above shall devote an amount not less than one-half of one percent (.5%) of the Building Development Costs for acquisition and installation of Public Art.

Commissioner Hernandez seconded and it passed, 3-1-1-0.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at **8:30 p.m.** to a Public Hearing on August 16, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 110 East Cook Street, Santa Maria.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chuen Ng

CHUEN NG, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION