

Dear Don Schwartz and Budget Committee,

I want to encourage you to follow the recommendations that were presented in the last City Council meeting. These recommendations are thorough and data driven.

In addition, I support eliminating the Public Arts Committee. I support the elimination of the PAC for several reasons. The primary reason is financial. Public Art is an ongoing financial commitment. It requires regular maintenance and insurance to ward against liability situations.

In addition, the committee takes staff time which we need to refocus on primary city issues. As we might need to reduce staff or staff hours, we cannot afford any distraction on projects that do not directly help the City's finances.

I recommend taking whatever funds are remaining in the PAC account and reserving them for ongoing maintenance.

The uninstalled Ned Khan sculpture should be placed in a location that is easy to maintain. Perhaps it could be installed downtown or in Ives? This sculpture which cost over \$40,000 has yet to be installed although it was ready for installation 3 or more years ago. This speaks to the complexity of public art and why many small communities do not have a public art collection.

There is a developer fee associated with the PAC.

I strongly recommend that Council bring forth a resolution to change this fee to a Parks Infrastructure Fee. This could help off-set the years of deferred maintenance that has transpired over the last decade and bring the public parks back into compliance. In addition, Sebastopol has a huge opportunity to develop the Railroad Forest and make our public parks a key part of our community infrastructure.

I also support a different model for the Climate Action Committee. I think a model that does not require staff time or broadcast costs is appropriate given the current financial crisis and reshaping of our staff.

Thank you,
Kate Haug