



Staff Report

CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR INTERIOR HALLWAY DISPLAYS AT CITY HALL

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Council is being asked to appoint an ad hoc committee to consider options for artwork and other interior displays throughout City Hall.

Background

Now that City Hall has been completed and staff has been moved into its new quarters, consideration should be given for interior wall displays along the various corridors. Some areas have already been considered, such as the inclusion of elected officials' photos and the official Belmont poem in the lobby area, and the "Wall of Mayors" photo in the landing of the second floor outside of the Council Chambers. However, there are many long, blank corridor walls on the second and third floors that are in need of some type of decor.

Discussion

Staff discussed this issue with Ruth Waters from the Peninsula Museum of Art (located in the Manor Building in Twin Pines Park) and the 1870 Gallery, Gail Gandolfi from the Belmont Arts Council, and Denny Lawhern, President of the Belmont Historical Society. As you may recall, in previous years, Ms. Waters managed rotating art displays in City Hall, which gave local artists an opportunity to show off their artwork.

The Belmont History room contains a plethora of documents and historic photos, many of which could be framed and displayed in various locations in City Hall. This would give the public the opportunity to be exposed to this historic information that is usually available only during times when the History Room is open. Other (non-photo) items from the History Room could be displayed as well, if desired.

Staff recommends that Council consider appointing an ad hoc committee to plan, coordinate, and implement the public display of artwork and/or historic photographs and other items throughout the interior public areas of City Hall. Members of this committee could include representatives from the Belmont Arts Commission, the Peninsula Museum and/or 1870 Gallery, the Belmont Historical Society, and other interested parties. Ms. Waters, Mrs. Gandolfi, and Mr. Lawhern have all expressed interest in being involved in this project.

Council may wish to give direction regarding its goals for this project. Does it wish to decorate the walls with random pieces of artwork? Does it wish to make a gallery out of the public spaces in City Hall? Does it wish to display historic photos and other items? Or does it wish some combination of the above? Giving some direction and parameters to the ad hoc committee would be helpful.

Fiscal Impact

Costs would vary, based on which type of art Council desires to display, as well as the cost of hardware and preparation work such as framing, etc. If the Council appoints an ad hoc committee, it could request that the committee consider a budget when making its final recommendation to Council.

Public Contact

This item was posted on the agenda. In addition, staff discussed this issue with the representatives of the Peninsula Museum/1870 Gallery, the Belmont Arts Council, and the Belmont Historical Society.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council appoint an ad hoc committee to address the details of this issue and to put together a plan. Council may wish to set parameters or otherwise direct certain conceptual plans for the committee's consideration, including budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Cook
City Clerk

Jack Crist
Interim City Manager