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“Our most recent project is nearing completion and the application process was very thorough. Following an international ‘Call to Artists,’ 102 entries were received. Using a judging rubric that includes visual impact, interpretation, creativity, composition, design and craftsmanship, the subcommittee scored all entries,” Springer said. “After tallying the scores, the top 25 entries were then reviewed and discussed in detail by the subcommittee. They narrowed the choices down to the top 12, then the top seven and, finally, the top three.”

A selection subcommittee was then formed to make the final determination of the winner of the competition. Members held a discussion of the potential possibilities submitted from each of the three finalists.

The submissions from one team stood out clearly to the judges.

“The choice of the design from the artist team of Marino-Heidel Studios of Portland was unanimous,” Springer said. “The selection committee was very impressed by the originality,

the boldness and depth of the design and the subtle use of local landmarks — in short, they captured the ‘Wow’ factor. After a thorough discussion, the full committee voted unanimously to approve the selection committee’s recommendation.”

Springer explained that the PAC has suggested minor modifications to the selected design, along with some slight content changes, which will be discussed with Marino-Heidel Studios.

Once the design team has incorporated these requested changes into the proposal, the finished product will be submitted to the PUD Board, Florence City Council and the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) for their approval.

Assuming these bodies accept the design, Springer hopes installation of the project will begin soon and be completed by Rhody Days 2019.

With the chosen design, Springer is confident the latest project will meet the mission statement of the PAC and bring another dramatic piece of art to area residents and visitors to town.

“The mission of the PAC is to: ‘Integrate art into the dai-



COURTESY IMAGE

A graphic illustration of the proposed south side mural on the PUD building facing Highway 101, pending final approval.

ly life of our community and inspire extraordinary creative expression that will enrich public awareness; enhancing the vitality, economy and diversity of Florence through the arts,” Springer said.

The committee has also made a concerted effort to incorpo-

rate the public into the process of selection and placement of art within the city limits, which is another element of the PAC mission statement.

PAC is funded through a combination of donations and a \$250,000 grant from FURA that is scheduled to finance the

public art process locally for the next two years.

The effort to enhance viewing and creation of art in Florence was recognized officially in 2015 as a way to stimulate economic development and to improve the quality of life in Florence. Guidelines for the

creation and display of art in city owned or managed spaces was codified in the 2017 Public Art Policy, adopted by the city upon the recommendation of the PAC.

Springer also wants interested community members to know the process of obtaining and presenting art for public enjoyment is ongoing.

“PAC is working closely with the city council and FURA on the comprehensive ReVision project, which will include as many as 16 locations for public art. Some of these will be permanent pieces and some will be part of the ‘Art Exposed’ revolving art program,” he said. “PAC has also identified specific locations throughout the city as potential locations for future artwork — both sculptures and murals.”

For more information about public art in Florence, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac.

For a tour of some of PAC’s displays or to find a local art gallery or studio, check out the Winter Florence Passport to the Arts.

Pick up a copy at local vendors or stop by the Siuslaw News, 148 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence.

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SVFR from page 1A

former Chief Jim Langborg, who resigned in August, and was recently sworn in as Fire Chief in King City, California.

The Interim Chief discussed the rationale behind his suggested experience and qualification requirements and explained his recommended job description at length with both boards.

The exact language of the description to be posted was discussed in detail and the relationship between the next fire Chief and the two districts was questioned and clarified by Abel.

His prepared statement made it clear the legal and financial obligations to the new Fire Chief will ultimately be the responsibility of SVFR.

“The big issue that came up was the employment relationship between boards and whoever the new person is, we needed to make it clear that the person hired actually has an employment relationship with the fire district and the relationship with Western Lane is through the IGA,” Abel said.

Abel then provided materials and analysis from districts with similar metrics and demographics to Florence as the central data used for a recommended salary of approximately \$100,000.

A somewhat protracted discussion as to the level and type of input each district’s board should have in oversight of the new chief was then initiated by WLAD Board member Dick Childs.

Childs’ requested changes while not adopted, prompted the directors of both boards to re-affirm their plan to revisit the current IGA agreement between WLAD and SVFR. They discussed the need to provide a broader, more comprehensive contractual arrangement between the two.

The discussion of oversight led to a discussion of the need to update the language in the current IGA.

Board Presidents Ric Yecny and Ron Greene were clear in their communication to all of the other directors of the need for a more detailed, up-to-date contract between the two districts. Both men noted signifi-

cant changes have occurred in the past couple of years in the working relationship between the two organizations.

The merging of administrative and communication functions was one of the examples provided as was the ongoing process of merging duplicated functions at SVFR and WLAD.

“The current IGA [description] is clearly insufficient and we have a lot of changes that need to be made to that document, which we will be taking up next,” Yecny said. “Our proposed revision, as the IGA has evolved over the last year or two...we have consolidated staff and a lot of things have changed, so the recommendation of the committee is to lengthen the agreement from one to three years, and secondly to change the notification of dissolution to one year from 30 days.”

Both boards were receptive to Yecny’s requested amendments and both passed the suggested changes unanimously.

Abel then reviewed his projected timeline for the identification, contact and interviewing of suitable candidates

for the joint district leadership position, suggesting an earlier than anticipated spring hire might be expected.

These comments helped to move the matter to action motions by members of both boards which resulted in a 3-2 vote for approval from the WLAD board and unanimous acceptance by the SVFR board.

Prior to receiving staff reports and Abel’s recommendations, a presentation updating directors on suggested changes to insurance coverage for next year was given by Jeff Griffin, CEO of Wilson Heirgood and Associates.

Office Manager Dina McClure then made a brief report which included concerns with ongoing problems with payroll service ADP and submitted a request for ratification of bills for November totaling \$243,379, which was approved.

There was some additional financial housekeeping undertaken after staff reports were made with changes approved to the districts family and medical leave policies and credit card and cardholder agreements for employees.

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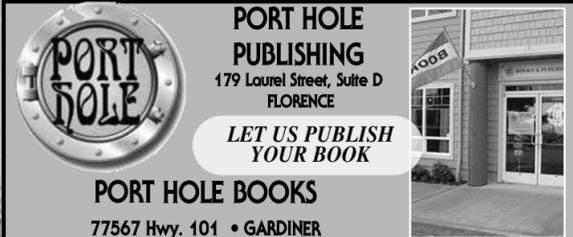
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