

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVAL PROCESS FOR SOUTH DUFF PUBLIC ART

BACKGROUND:

On January 9, 2018, the City Council considered how to facilitate the installation of public art sculptures within private easements along South Duff between Squaw Creek and South 16th Street. The Council's discussion centered around two issues: How the City's Zoning Ordinance might be amended to allow limited public art on private property, and how the selection of such artwork would be approved.

With regards to the method for selecting artwork, Council directed staff to come back with a process for approval of the sculptures by the Public Art Commission (PAC). In contrast to that directive, the City Council's long-standing policy has been for the Public Art Commission to first review and make recommendations regarding proposed additions to the City's public art collection, after which the Council itself ultimately approves or disapproves adding the artwork to the collection. That same format of PAC recommendations followed by Council approval is followed for sculptures selected for inclusion in the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition (AAOSE).

In contrast to AAOSE, where all sculptures are on loan to the City, the proposed public art sculptures along South Duff could either be owned by the City or could be privately owned. In both cases, the property owner would have granted the City a public art easement for the land upon which the sculpture is displayed.

Two possible approaches are available to Council for approval of the sculptures displayed along this corridor. The first is to follow the Council's past policy, whereby the Public Art Commission makes a recommendation for Council's approval. The second would be for Council to delegate approval of these sculptures to the Commission. In both cases, City staff would be involved to make sure the artwork can be safely displayed so as to minimize risk to the public.

The Public Art Commission considered these two options at its June 6 meeting. The Commission expressed a preference to follow the existing policy that is utilized for all other public art. They saw approval by the City Council as providing a more public, visible process for receiving public input on artwork selections. It was ultimately the PAC's recommendation that the Council use that approach for approval of artwork along South Duff Avenue.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Follow the Council's past artwork approval policy for artwork along South Duff whereby the Public Art Commission would make a recommendation to the City Council for the Council's ultimate approval or disapproval.
2. Delegate approval of these sculptures to the Public Art Commission.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Public Art Commission has recommended that the Council's existing artwork approval process be followed for sculptures placed along the South Duff art corridor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1 as shown above.