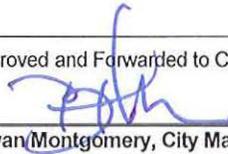




STAFF REPORT

Date: September 13, 2016
To: Bryan Montgomery, City Manager
From: Lindsey Bruno, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: **WORK SESSION** Regarding selection of artwork for Utility Box Mural Project

Approved and Forwarded to City Council:


Bryan Montgomery, City Manager

Background and Analysis

The Utility Box Mural Project proposes to beautify 10 utility boxes in various areas around Oakley that are at times the target of graffiti. Public Works staff identified utility boxes that have begun to look unsightly due to repeated vandalism and repair. Identified utility boxes include:

- Main Street & Live Oak Avenue
- Main Street & Vintage Parkway
- Main Street & O'Hara Avenue
- Main Street & Laurel
- Brown Road & Oxford Drive
- Carpenter Road & Brown Road
- Neroly Road & Brown Road
- Neroly Road & Everlasting Way
- Neroly Road & Empire Avenue
- Empire Avenue & West Cypress Road

Many cities throughout the Bay Area and beyond have implemented similar programs and this one was suggested by Councilmember Pope some months back. Cities with a similar program have found that once the utility boxes are painted they are vandalized less and graffiti problems have been reduced. The programs also provide an opportunity for artists to demonstrate their talent.

The open "Call for Artists" as part of our program was released on July 22nd and artists had an opportunity to submit their application, conceptual drawing, resume, examples of previous art work and their preferred utility box sites. The "Call for Artists" instructed artists to consider the neighborhood or area the boxes are located and to design the mural to enhance the surrounding environment and reflect Oakley's rich heritage or, highlight Oakley as a "Place for Families in the Heart of the Delta."

Over 20 designs were submitted, and a committee met to review applications, and designs. Ultimately, the committee felt there were a number of designs that would best fit specific utility box locations that were selected for the first round, while other

designs would be a better fit for additional utility boxes to be selected in a second round of the project.

Using the artwork submitted a second round of the project could be conducted in the summer of 2017. Based on the work the artists submitted in the first round, staff could select locations that would be matches to the designs or even to commission additional designs from the pool of artists for a second round.

Fiscal Impact

The average cost of each box is \$500 which covers the artist's work. After the artwork is complete, City staff will coat the artwork with a graffiti resistant sealer that will cost about \$20 per box (for the sealer).

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Council review and approve the design recommendations.