

Alison Foulis

From: Christine Goodwin <goodpat@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:40 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Family of Dennis Patton Comment: June 29 PUBLIC WORKSHOP: Sir Francis Drake Statue at Larkspur Landing

CAUTION:External Sender

As the family of the artist, Dennis Patton, we want to state our support for the long overdue examination of the demands activists have raised in Marin, including seeking the removal of Sir Francis Drake's name in the County. We support this movement so the community as a whole can acknowledge the past, take control of the present, and move towards a positive future. We will absolutely support whatever the citizens decide is best for their community.

As the wife of the artist, I'd like to offer my specific thoughts about the naming of this sculpture which has no defining characteristics, markings, or similarities to its attached name, other than its literal location on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. It has been known by many names by different individuals and circumstances throughout its 30-year life.

However, my recollection addresses why so many locals have long suspected that the long and lanky cartoonish character under discussion here is widely considered to be Don Quixote.

Driving home one night in 1982, Dennis and I came upon his torched wood lath horse on exhibit at the Civic Center. The fire fighters helped Dennis pull down the wood lath and tin can armored Don Quixote, rescuing it from the flames.

That night seeded Dennis' quest to give Marin the steel sculpture of the character he found befitting of Marin. When the opportunity for creating a sculpture for Larkspur came along, I see the soul of Don Quixote in the piece of public art currently under discussion.

My suggestion? Install a plaque that at long last names Patton's contribution to public art in Marin "Don Quixote."

Thank you,
Christine Goodwin
goodpat@gmail.com
Marin County resident 1972-1990