

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:**        **October 22, 2008**

**TIME:**        **7:00 p.m.**

**PLACE:**       **City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**        Geoffrey Bant, Robin Hall, Robert Lewis, Michelle Plante, Sarah Ross, Patricia Samman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**        Barbara Hedlund, Katherine Lamb

**STAFF PRESENT:**         Elizabeth Tyler, Community Development Director; Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator; Ryan Brault, Redevelopment Specialist/TIF Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**        None

---

**1.     CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by acting Chair Robin Hall. Anna Hochhalter took roll and a quorum was declared.

**2.     CHANGES TO AGENDA**

There were none.

**3.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the September 24, 2008 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bant seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and thus the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**4.     PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

**5.     OLD BUSINESS**

- **Select Vice-Chair**

Mr. Hall and City staff reviewed with the Commission the duties of the Commission Vice Chair. Ms. Plante made a motion to nominate Ms. Samman as Vice Chair. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Roll was taken and the votes were as follows:

Mr. Bant – yes	Ms. Plante – yes
Mr. Hall – yes	Ms. Ross – yes
Mr. Lewis – yes	Ms. Samman – yes

The motion carried unanimously and Ms. Samman was named Vice Chair of the Urbana Public Arts Commission.

- **Discussion of Philo Road Beautification Plan**

Ms. Hochhalter gave background information on the Philo Road Beautification Plan to the Commission. She discussed incorporation of public art as part of the plan and noted that \$15,000 had been budgeted by City Council for public art along the Philo Road corridor (“the Corridor”).

Mr. Lewis stated that it is the duty of the Commission to decide what kind of public art would be placed along the corridor and suggested a bidding process to select artist(s).

Ms. Ross asked whether the Philo Road Beautification Plan (“the Plan”) designated specific sites for art as opposed to featuring art elements such as banner. Ms. Tyler responded that the Plan designates spaces for public art and that parameters for the same are set forth in the Plan.

Mr. Hall suggested that members of the Commission conduct a site visit to assess the Corridor, and look at examples of public art in Meadowbrook Park; Ms. Hochhalter noted that she could provide details of the Meadowbrook Park sculpture garden lease arrangement for the next Commission meeting. Ms. Hochhalter also noted that staff will need to begin discussions with private property owners on the proposed locations for public art. Ms. Ross suggested the setting of a theme for art in the Corridor, such as waiting for buses, and proposed that the Commission compose and design the space. Ms. Tyler suggested using the amenities as a context for the theme. Mr. Lewis suggested that the history or geology of the space would be an interesting theme. Ms. Hochhalter noted that there are residents of the South Urbana Neighborhood Association (“SUNA”) who are interested in the art selection process.

Mr. Lewis suggested a discussion among members of the Commission on short-term and long-term goals for the Corridor plus local and global artists. The Commission requested to view a slide show of public art in Urbana and Champaign as an agenda item at its next meeting.

Ms. Ross suggested that, as a statement, the first art piece to be placed in the Corridor should be from an artist from Champaign-Urbana.

- **Discussion of Budget**

Mr. Brault gave background information on the Tax Increment Financing program (“TIF”) and explained to the Commission potential uses of TIF funds for public art projects.

Ms. Hochhalter discussed further public art budget items including marketing costs, the Gallery District Incentive Program, public arts projects, public art in the Philo Road corridor, the Art in the Park program, and arts promotion by the Urbana Business Association (“UBA”).

Mr. Hall asked how the City could recognize private parties who create art in public places. Ms. Tyler agreed that this was a good idea.

Ms. Hochhalter noted that she had submitted an application for a matching grant to supplement the public arts budget from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. Lewis recommended that a monthly progress report items be added to the Commission’s agenda each month.

- **Discussion of Program Direction**

Mr. Bant discussed the merits of taking a proactive approach to the Public Arts Program and its activities, including prioritizing and project selection. The idea of inviting prominent art/artist groups in the community to present to the Commission on their current activities was also discussed.

Mr. Lewis suggested the establishment of a framework for establishing the budget, dealing with requests, and how to make project and policy decisions. It was noted that many ideas had been contributed and was further suggested that the time had come to develop a work program and to spend some time prioritizing. The background work of the Public Arts Task Force was also noted.

Mr. Hall suggested a review of the seven goals in the Public Arts Program ordinance for the next Commission meeting.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion of Plaques and Markers**

Ms. Hochhalter discussed with the Commission the need for a procedure to recognize significant places and events in the City through plaques and markers. Places such as Roger Ebert’s former residence and the Chinese Goose at Crystal Lake Park were cited as examples. Ms. Hochhalter stated that the City Council has requested that the Commission act in an advisory capacity with regards to the form and design of such plaques and markers; she noted that she would bring examples of various templates to the next Commission meeting. Ms. Plante stated that she would also look into examples of the same. Ms. Tyler made note of the existence of historic preservation-related plaquing programs.

- **Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next Commission meeting would take place on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, in the Executive Conference Room of the City Building. It was further noted that the meeting would include discussion of changing the regular meeting schedule, established at the September meeting. The second Tuesday of each month was discussed as an alternative date.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Hochhalter announced that there would be an Animating Democracy Workshop on Arts and Civic Engagement taking place on October 27 and 28, 2008. She also announced that the 40 North|88 West ACE Awards ceremony would take place on October 23, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hall asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lewis moved to adjourn. Ms. Samman seconded the motion. With all Commission members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted,

---

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator