

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: March 10, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bant, Robin Hall, Barbara Hedlund, Robert Lewis, Michele Plante, Sarah Ross, Patricia Sammann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katherine Lamb

STAFF PRESENT: Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator; Tom Carrino, Economic Development Manager; Tony Weck, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Betty Allen, Darren Hicks, Ellen Elrick, Susan Gleason, Mark McKnight

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by 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 February 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Guest Presentation: Darren Hicks, Ellen Elrick, Betty Allen and Susan Gleason, Urbana School District**

Betty Allen, Elementary Fine Arts Coordinator for the Urbana School District, Susan Gleason, a Visual Arts teacher at Urbana High School, Darren Hicks, Music Coordinator for the Urbana School District, and Ellen Elrick (title) addressed the Commission. Ms. Allen first addressed the Commission, followed by Ms. Gleason, then by Mr. Hicks, then by Ms. Elrick. Each presented overviews of the arts programs available to students of the Urbana School District. Questions from the Commission were addressed at the end of the presentation.

- **Presentation by Staff: Monthly Progress Report**

Ms. Hochhalter presented City staff's monthly progress report to the Commission, outlining ongoing projects in process, requests and recommendations from the public, and staff activities. For ongoing projects in process, she reported the following in regards to Art in Infrastructure projects: an update regarding the Iron Post Sculpture Project, the Philo Road Beautification Project, the Cunningham Avenue Beautification Study, the Boneyard Creek Master Plan, and the Downtown Newspaper Rack Design Project.

In regards to projects with partners, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: progress with the Krannert Center District, the 2009 Boneyard Arts Festival, and the Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District; she also reported on the Gallery District Incentive program. She also reported on the Gallery District Incentive Program.

In regards to projects in development, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that the Art in Public Places Kickoff Project was still pending NEA grant approval; that the City Hall Art Exhibition Space Program was in development; that the Urbana Public Arts Grant Program proposal was still in process (Commissioners were directed to the Grant Program Memo); that *The Arts at the Market* program, including workshops and information on the Urbana Public Arts Program at the Market at the Square, was in development; that a Spring Lecture Series was in development and Commission discussion on the project was needed.

For requests and recommendations from the public, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: that Dale Stephenson had submitted information in March on a youth art competition to take place in late April 2009.

For staff activities, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that she had been working on the Public Arts Commission program research and preparation; that she had served as a judge for the *Poetry Out Loud* regional competition hosted by 40 North/88 West; that she had served as a volunteer during the Pre-Boneyard Arts Festival Mingle and Match event; that she had attended grant program meetings and had been working on guideline revision and the drafting of an application for the same; that she had been working on facilitation and

coordination of the Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Committee; that she had conducted a business retention visit at Corson's Music Guitar Store; that she had participated in an Americans for the Arts webinar on federal funding sources; that she had attended staff meetings on the Philo Road Beautification Project; that she had attended the Illinois Arts Alliance members meeting. She also reported on the meetings she had attended since the last Commission meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Arts Grant Program Draft Proposal**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with an update to the Commission. During her discussion of the program, Ms. Hochhalter outlined four sub-programs to be included in the Vacant Spaces program. They were as follows: *Here and Now: Arts Grant Program for Artists Residing in Urbana*, a program open to artists residing in Urbana for projects in the arts to be completed within six months of notification; *Envision 365: Arts Grants for Emerging & Professional Artists*, a program open to practicing artists for projects in the arts to be completed within 12 months of notification; *Creative Mix: Art Grants for Groups, Troupes & Ensembles*, a program open to schools, arts organizations, collaborative groups, and curatorial initiatives for projects in the arts to be completed within 12 months of notification; *Urbana Festivals Grant*, a program open to festival presenters for festivals located in Urbana. Staff's recommendation in this regard was that the Commission review the documents included in their informational packets and prepare for a discussion on the implementation of such programs in the remainder of fiscal year 2008-09. A general discussion on the grants program jury and selection process followed. Commission questions were addressed during the course of the discussion. Following the discussion, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the grant program process as presented. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and with all members of the Commission in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion of Vacant Spaces for Temporary Exhibitions**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with an update on the progress of program planning. There was a brief general discussion of the program among members of the Commission. Commission questions were addressed during the course of the discussion. Ms. Hochhalter reported that City staff would continue to work with program subcommittee members Ms. Sammann and Ms. Lamb and bring forward recommendations for implementation at a future date.

- **Discussion of Program Plan and Budget for FY 09-10**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with an update to the Commission. She reported that a draft of the first annual Public Arts Program Plan for fiscal year 2009-10 was forthcoming. She reported further that the Commission could expect expenditures in FY 2009-10 would be similar to those in FY 2008-09 and that she would provide a draft of the annual Public Arts Program Plan for FY 2009-10 at the April meeting. It was staff's

recommendation that the Commission review the overview of current public arts programming included with their informational packets and identify any recommended changes to take place in the upcoming fiscal year. A general discussion among members of the Commission ensued, including discussion of a fundraising subcommittee.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of a Fundraising Subcommittee**

This agenda item was discussed during the discussion on the program plan and budget for fiscal year 2009-10. No further discussion on the issue was entered into at this point in the meeting.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were made by Ms. Hochhalter and Ms. Hedlund.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Plante made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sammann. With no further discussion and with all Commission members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted,

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator