

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** April 12, 2011

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

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

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Geoffrey Bant, Barbara Hedlund, Robert Lewis, Sarah Ross, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Cheryl Hayden, Ilona Matkovszki

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathryn Fitzgerald, Roopali Malhotra, Robert Myers, Dennis Roberts, David Wilcoxon

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Ms. Sammann. Christina McClelland took roll and a quorum was declared present.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Ms. McClelland stated that the agenda item, Discussion and Approval of Public Art League Agreement, would be moved under New Business. She also stated that the 2010 Urbana Arts Grantee, Kathryn Fitzgerald's presentation would be moved to the next meeting due to technical difficulties.

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

The minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Winkelmes 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

### • **Presentation by Staff: Monthly Progress Report**

Ms. McClelland presented the City staff's monthly progress report to the Commission, outlining projects in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

For an update on current projects, she reported the following:

- Ms. McClelland reported that the City of Urbana wished to thank Robin Hall for his service on the Public Arts Commission. They also wished to congratulate Commissioner Pat Sammann on her new role as chair.
- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. McClelland reported that the 2009 and 2010 projects were being completed and reported. She stated that agreements were being signed for the 2011 projects.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. McClelland reported that the current Artist of the Corridor exhibit began on April 4, featuring the work of Cheri Manrique and would be on display until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. McClelland stated that a reception would be held for Ms. Manrique on Tuesday, April 26th from 4:00-5:00 PM.
- With regards to marketing, Ms. McClelland reported that City staff had been regularly updating the Public Arts Program's *Facebook* page, which as of this meeting had 350 fans and averaged 88 page visits a month. She also stated she had started an Urbana Public Arts Twitter account, which could be followed @urbanapublicart, and as of this meeting had 37 followers. Ms. McClelland reported that the e-mail newsletter had 288 subscribers, with 5 new subscribers added during the month of April. She also stated that Staff had met with the graphic design class of University of Illinois professors Jimmy Luu and Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud to see presentations by the students, and would be bringing their recommendations to the May Public Arts Meeting.
- With regards to grants, Ms. McClelland reported that the submitted Statement of Interest for a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant to fund a mosaic or pathway project for the Boneyard Creek Beautification Project had not been selected to move on to the next phase of the grants process. However, she stated that the research completed in writing the statement would be very helpful as the Boneyard Beautification subcommittee moved forward on public art components of this project.
- With regards to conferences, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had submitted an application for an Emerging Leader scholarship to attend the 2011 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Awards would be announced on April 15, 2011. She also stated that she attended the 2011 Creative Chicago Expo on March 12<sup>th</sup> where she went to workshops on e-mail marketing, pitching stories to the media, and storefront art exhibitions.
- With regards to partnerships, Ms. McClelland reported that she had met with Tim Bartlett, Superintendent of Operations and Planning for the Urbana Park District, and that the UPD was interested in collaborating with the Urbana Public Art Program and Commission to identify potential sites for public art in parks in Urbana.
- For upcoming events, Ms. McClelland reported that the date for the next Public Arts

Commission meeting was set for May 10, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. She stated that the Fundraising Subcommittee would be meeting April 13, 2011. Ms. McClelland also reported that the 2011 One State Together in Arts Conference, put on by the Illinois Arts Council and Arts Alliance Illinois would be held in Bloomington-Normal May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. She requested that any Commission members interested in attending to contact her. More information could be found at <http://onestateillinois.com/>.

- **Presentation by 2009 Urbana Arts Grantee Casey Dierlam**

Ms. McClelland introduced Casey Dierlam, who attempted to join the meeting by phone. Due to technical difficulties, Casey was not able to join the meeting. Ms. McClelland gave a brief background on Casey's project, called the Contemporary Triptych which was a series of piano concerts with Ms. Dierlam and other performers in 2009. This project was conceived for the sole purpose of promoting contemporary piano music by local composers. Ms. McClelland stated she would work on rescheduling a time for Ms. Dierlam to complete her presentation and that Ms. Dierlam's final report of her project would be included in the packet for the May meeting.

- **Presentation on Royer District by Councilman Dennis Roberts**

Ms. McClelland introduced this agenda item. Councilman Dennis Roberts gave a power point presentation on a proposed project for the Royer District to make it more visible and accessible to the public with the use of signage. He reported that some of the results from the Signage and Wayfinding Study which was recently approved by the City Council, would be useful in making the Royer District more visible. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission/Staff and Mr. Roberts ensued.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Feedback and Recommendations from Boneyard Creek Public Art Meeting and Boneyard Creek Sub-Committee**

Ms. McClelland provided an introduction to this discussion. She reported that a public meeting took place on March 15<sup>th</sup> to solicit public feedback about what public art elements should be included in the project. Ms. McClelland gave a brief summary of the input received at the meeting and stated that time was relatively limited on getting started with projects that were heavily integrated into the infrastructure of the project. She also reported that the Boneyard Creek SubCommittee met on April 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss those matters and that they recommended that a request for qualifications process be used to select an artist for the project. She stated that the SubCommittee would like for the Public Arts Commission to approve the proposed procedure of selecting an artist. Ms. Winkelmes gave more information on the matter and asked the Commission to approve or deny the proposed procedure. A brief discussion by the Commission followed. Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the proposed procedure. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. With no further

comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion and Approval of FY 11-12 Program Plan**

Ms. McClelland introduced this agenda item. The Commission discussed moving around some of the subcommittee assignments. Ms. McClelland then summarized the proposed program plan and informed the Commission that an approval would be needed to move this plan on to the City Council. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion and Approval of Public Art League Agreement**

Ms. Sammann introduced David Wilcoxon, President and Roopali Malhotra, Board Member of the Public Art League. Mr. Wilcoxon gave a background on their program and their proposed agreement between the City of Urbana and the Public Art League for the purpose of installing artwork. Ms. McClelland briefly explained how this program would benefit the city without taking away from the Urbana Sculpture Program. She reported that the City of Urbana Legal Staff had reviewed and approved the agreement. She stated that the Public Arts Commission would have to approve this agreement first and it would then move to the City Council. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission/Staff and the Public Art League ensued. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, it was decided to continue with this discussion at the next meeting. Ms. McClelland requested that any proposed changes or comments be emailed to her before then.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. McClelland reiterated that the reception for the current Artist of the Corridor, Cheri Manrique would be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lewis made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Winkelmes seconded the motion. With no further business, Ms. Sammann declared the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Submitted,

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Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator