

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: January 13, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Starkey, Susan Starkey, Janet Soesbe, Suzie Berkes, Mark McKnight, Brenda Koenig

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 7:02 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 December 9, 2008 regular meeting and the January 5, 2009 special meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Lamb seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and thus the minutes of both the aforementioned meetings were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chris Starkey addressed the Commission, offering his support for the same as well as for the Urbana Public Arts Program.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Guest Presentation: Janet Soesbe, Community Program Manager, Urbana Park District**

Janet Soesbe, Community Program Manager for the Urbana Park District addressed the Commission. Ms. Soesbe offered information on arts-related programs and events hosted by the Park District. Questions and comments from the Commission were addressed during the course of Ms. Soesbe's presentation.

- **Guest Presentation: Megan Wolf, Director of Resource Development, and Steven Bentz, Director of Operations, 40 North | 88 West**

Megan Wolf and Steven Bentz addressed the Commission on behalf of 40 North | 88 West. Ms. Wolf and Mr. Bentz outlined for the Commission the activities, values and strategic plan for the aforementioned organization. Questions and comments from the Commission were addressed during the course of Ms. Wolf's and Mr. Bentz's 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, staff activities, as well as an upcoming grant opportunity. For ongoing projects in process, she reported the following in regards to Art in Infrastructure projects: an update on the Philo Road Beautification Project, specifically citing that City staff was beginning to meet with property owners along the Philo Road corridor; she also reported on the progress of 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.

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 proposal was still in process; that the Urbana Public Arts Grant Program proposal was still in process and pending approval; that bi-monthly programming on UPTV featuring local artists was in development; that an *Arts at the Market* program featuring monthly workshops and information focused on various art forms at the Market at the Square was being discussed with the Market Director.

For requests and recommendations from the public, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: that a request had been received from Ms. Anna Epelbaum for help in promoting her books and CDs to local customers; that Mr. Seth Fein had requested funding support on behalf of the 5th Annual Pygmalion Music Festival, to take place in Urbana in September

2009; that Ms. Ellen Elrick, Instrumental Music Educator for the Urbana School District had introduced the Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program (EBU) as a potential program to receive Public Arts Program funding

For staff activities, Ms. Hochhalter reported that staff had been working on the Public Arts Commission program research and development, and facilitation and coordination of the Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Committee Meetings. She also reported on the meetings she had attended since the last Commission meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Program Planning, Priorities, and Budget**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion. She recounted at the special meeting of the Public Arts Commission on January 5, the Commission had identified its top three priorities in the categories of: programs to be implemented in the next six months (January – June 2009); programs to be implemented in the next fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010); and programs to be considered in the future. Ms. Hochhalter discussed with the Commission the outcome of the prioritization exercise which had borne out the aforementioned priorities and presented staff's recommendation that the Commission review the list of priorities and consider the following criteria:

- Various Public Arts Goals described in the City Council Common Goals, City Comprehensive Plan, City Downtown Strategic Plan, and Public Arts Task Force Recommendations Accepted by the City Council.
- Ability to achieve success in the given time frames
- Ability for the program to grow.
- Cost associated with each program idea.
- Public Arts Fund budget for the current fiscal year (FY 2008-09).
- Potential to leverage private dollars.

Staff asked that the Commission be prepared to further define its priorities. A general discussion of the staff report and items contained therein ensued. During said discussion it was determined by the Commission that subcommittees were needed in order to address individual business issues of the Program. Subcommittee selection was as follows:

- Funding: Ms. Plante and Ms. Ross
- Spaces: Ms. Sammann and Ms. Lamb
- Philo Road Projects: Mr. Bant
- King Park Projects: Mr. Hall and Mr. Lewis

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Arts Grant Program Concept**

Ms. Hochhalter presented the staff report to the Commission in regards to this item. She reported that municipal grant programs are fairly common and that a variety of programs exist. Based on the outcome of the Commission's prioritization exercise at the December 2008 meeting, staff suggested that additional discussion in necessary to further define the type of program that should be pursued for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Ms. Hochhalter presented the Commission with an example of a pilot grant program as well as examples of grant programs in other communities. It was staff's recommendation that the Commission review the items in the staff report and to discuss the specific details for an arts grant pilot program to be considered for implementation in the remainder of FY 2008-09. A general discussion of this matter among members of the Commission ensued.

- **Discussion of Vacant Space Program Concept**

Ms. Hochhalter presented the staff report to the Commission regarding this item. Examples of programs for vacant spaces for temporary art installations from other communities were presented as well as staff's recommendation. Staff recommended that the Commission review the examples and discuss specific details for a Vacant Spaces for Temporary Art Installations and Performance pilot program to be considered for implementation in the remainder of FY 08-09 and in the upcoming fiscal year. A general discussion among members of the Commission ensued.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lewis 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: 51 p.m.

Submitted,

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator