

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

APPROVED

DATE: April 14, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bant, Robin Hall, Michele Plante, Sarah Ross, Patricia Sammann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Hedlund, Katherine Lamb, Robert Lewis

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ilona Matkovszki, Barbara Kessel

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 7:01 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 March 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Ms. Plante 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**

There was none.

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

Ms. Hochhalter presented City staff's monthly progress report to the Commission, outlining ongoing projects with recent updates, projects in development, staff activities, and upcoming events. For ongoing projects with recent updates, she reported the following in regards to Art in Infrastructure projects: that the Iron Post Sculpture Project had been approved by City Council, that the Philo Road Beautification Project had been approved by City Council, that there had been further developments with County officials on the Downtown Newspaper Rack Design Project.

In regards to projects with partners, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: an update on the 40 N | 88 W Boneyard Arts Festival, April 16 – 19, 2009. She also reported that the Gallery District Incentive Program was receiving continued business participation. In addition, she reported on the Urbana Business Association's (UBA) Business Backs the Arts Initiative; there was an announcement in regards to this program in the February 2009 UBA newsletter and additional information about the program was presented.

In regards to projects in development, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that the Art in Public Places Kickoff Project did not receive NEA funding; that the City Hall Art Exhibition Space Program had been approved by City Council; that the Urbana Public Arts Grant Program had been approved by City Council; that the UPTV bi-monthly programming featuring local artists was to continue Fall 2009; that the Arts at the Market program was proceeding, with workshops and information at the Market at the Square, was approved by City Council; that there were plans for a Spring Lecture Series to continue in Fall 2009.

For staff activities, Ms. Hochhalter presented the Urbana Public Arts Program of Work for fiscal year 2008-09 to the Commission. Included were the program report, the program of work, and the presentation that had been prepared for the April 6, 2009 City Council meeting. Ms. Hochhalter also reported on the following: her work as Urbana District Committee Chair of the Boneyard Arts Festival; on Arts Grant Program development; on her coordination with the Chinese Goose Plaque Project; on her exit interview with the Embassy Tavern; on her attendance at a meeting and collaboration regarding the Urbana Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival; on her March 24 interview with Kevin Kelly on WILL radio; on her representation of the Public Arts Program at the WCIA Home and Garden Show March 28 and 29; that she had launched an Urbana Public Arts Program page on Facebook; and that she had represented the Public Arts Program at the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on April 1.

For upcoming events, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that the Boneyard Arts Festival was to take place April 16 in downtown Champaign, April 17 in the U of I campus district, April 18 in downtown Urbana, and on April 19 in the areas surrounding Champaign and Urbana; that the Roger Ebert Residence plaque dedication was to take place on Wednesday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m. in front of the house at 410 E. Washington Street in Urbana.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on Arts Grants Program**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with an update to the Commission, including that the Urbana Arts Grants program had been launched. Ms. Hochhalter reported that the promotion of the program began on April 14 and that applications and guidelines were posted on the city website. Ms. Hochhalter acknowledged Ms. Plante for her design of the program flyer and recognized the College of Fine and Applied Arts for its donation of printing the flyers. A brief general discussion among members of the Commission followed. Commission questions were addressed during the course of the discussion.

- **Discussion and Approval of Public Arts Program Plan for FY 09-10**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with a review of the background of the Public Arts Program, followed by discussion on the Annual Public Arts Program Plan. Specifically, it was noted that the plan should identify specific program goals for the year, means of achievement of said goals, proposed expenditures, sources of supplemental revenue, schedule of work plan execution, necessary resources and responsibilities, and an implementation plan to address the goals. Ms. Hochhalter presented a draft of the Annual Public Arts Program Plan for fiscal year 2009-10. She noted that staff anticipated that the expenditures for FY 09-10 would be similar to those in FY 08-09. It was staff's recommendation that the Commission review the draft Public Arts Program Plan for FY 09-10 and be prepared to make any changes to approve the content of the Plan at this meeting. It was noted that staff would make any necessary additional changes to the format in preparation for presentation to the City Council in May for consideration as part of the City's FY 09-10 Budget process. With Commission questions addressed during the course of the presentation, there was a brief general discussion of the program among members of the Commission. Approval of the draft Plan was deferred to the next meeting and as such, no vote was taken at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Public Arts Commission Member Terms**

Ms. Hochhalter briefly reviewed with the Commission the lengths of the terms of each member's service on the same.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were made by Ms. Ross and Mr. Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sammann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Plante. With no further discussion and with all Commission members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator