

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

APPROVED

DATE: May 12, 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, Sarah Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katherine Lamb, Michele Plante, Patricia Sammann

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Strang

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 7:05 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 April 14, 2009 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 the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **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 a Call for Art was in preparation for the Iron Post Sculpture Project, that a Call for Art was in preparation for the Philo Road Beautification Project, that Champaign County had approved the Downtown Newspaper Rack Design Project, and that the Urbana City Council had reviewed the agreement with the Champaign County regarding the Downtown Newspaper Rack on May 11.

In regards to projects with partners, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: that the 2009 ACE Awards from 40 North | 88 West was in the planning stages. 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.

In regards to projects in development, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that a Call for Art was in preparation for the City Hall Art Exhibition Space Program; that applications were being received and that the juries were being confirmed for the Urbana Arts Grant Program; that planning was in progress for the Arts at the Market program to hold workshops on May 30 and June 13; that draft program guidelines had been prepared for the Storefront Arts Series Project; that the Spring Lecture Series was planning to continue, Fall 2009; that the UPTV bi-monthly programming featuring local artists was planning to continue, Fall 2009.

For staff activities, Ms. Hochhalter reported on the following: the Annual Urbana Public Arts Program Plan for FY 2009-2010; the Arts Grant Program administration and fielding of inquiries; coordination with the Chinese Goose Plaque Project; and the Urbana Public Arts Program page on Facebook, which had 90 fans at the time of this report.

For upcoming events, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following: that the tentative date for dedication of the Chinese Goose plaque was May 23; that an Arts at the Market workshop was planned for May 30 from 8:00 a.m. until noon; and that the Urbana Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival was to take place in downtown Urbana, June 26 and 27.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on Arts Grants Program**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with an update to the Commission. Ms. Hochhalter reported that 72 applications for the program had been received. She noted that the applications would be judged by two juries, one for individual grants and one for group and ensemble grants. A brief general discussion among members of the Commission followed. Commission questions were addressed during the course of the discussion.

- **Discussion of Storefront Arts Series Program**

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with background on the program. She reported that the Storefront and Urbana Space Subcommittee, consisting of Commissioners Sammann and Lamb, had met with City staff to discuss the proposed programs and further define the implementation process. A draft program description was presented to the Commission. It was staff's recommendation that the Commission review the documents presented and provide comments or suggestions during this meeting. Phil Strang, a member of the audience, posed the following questions: Will viewers of storefront art installations have access to the inside of a given storefront, or will they only be able to view said installations from the outside? Will there be a reception when a given installation was complete? The Commission discussed these questions and a general discussion on the program ensued.

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

Ms. Hochhalter began this discussion with background on the Plan. She reported that, contingent upon Commission review and approval at this meeting, the Public Arts Program Plan for FY 2009-10 would be scheduled for presentation to the City Council on May 18 and 26, 2009. It was staff's recommendation that the Commission review and approve the draft Public Arts Program Plan for FY 2009-10, which was presented, with any changes, and forward it to the City Council. The Commission reviewed the draft Plan. A motion was made and seconded that item number three ("Festivals, focus areas could include a music and visual art festival focused on children, the integration of art into existing festivals, and festivals as a category of funding") under heading 10.) ("Long-term Priorities and Exploratory Research") be removed. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Further Commission discussion followed. At the end of the discussion, Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the Plan with minor corrections, with the understanding that it could be changed. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement was made by Mr. Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ross. With no further discussion and with all Commission members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

May 12, 2009

Submitted,

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator