

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** January 11, 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, Robin Hall, Cheryl Hayden, Barbara Hedlund, Ilona Matkovszki, Sarah Ross, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Lewis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Carrino, Economic Development Division Manager; Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator; Anna Hochhalter, Community Development Associate; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Roberts

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chair Robin Hall. Anna Hochhalter took roll and a quorum was declared present.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Ms. Hochhalter stated that Casey Dierlam would be unable to present her Urbana Grants report during that meeting, so that item would be removed from the agenda.

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

The minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Bant made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hedlund seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Dennis Roberts presented an article on public art in Birmingham, Michigan. He thought the artwork might give ideas for sculptures to use in the Boneyard Creek project.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Introduction: Public Arts Coordinator, Christina McClelland**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced and welcomed Christina McClelland as the new Public Arts Coordinator. Ms. McClelland gave a brief summary on her arts background. Members of the Commission introduced themselves, and welcomed Ms. McClelland to the Commission.

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

Ms. Hochhalter 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:

- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that a total of 41 applications were received by the deadline. There were 8 in the Here and Now category, 9 in the Envision 365, 16 in Creative Mix, and 8 in Festivals. She stated that she had confirmed with enough people for the jury and was just working on finalizing dates for the selection process. Ms. Hochhalter stated she was still working on presenting reports for 2009 and 2010 recipients of the Urbana Arts Grant Program.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the current Artist of the Corridor exhibit began on November 30<sup>th</sup>, featuring the work of Phil Strang and would be on display until January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- With regards to the *Art Now!* UPTV Arts Program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that it had been incredibly successful and thanked Pat Sammann and Sarah Ross for taking the lead on the project. She stated that Ms. Sammann and Ms. Ross had interviewed the following artists for 2010: Chris Starkey, Roger Blakely and Cecelia Allen, Gerald Guthrie, Aaron Ammons, Amy Rueffert and Bonnie Fortune, and Kate Kuper. Ms. Hochhalter reported that UPTV had been posting the interviews on the City of Urbana website. Videos can be viewed online at <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artnow>. Ms. Sammann gave a brief report of upcoming featured artists and extended an invitation to anyone on the Commission who would be interested in participating in an interview to contact her. She stated that the program continues to run on UPTV each Monday from 6:30-7:00pm.
- With regards to marketing, Ms. Hochhalter reported that City staff had been regularly updating the Public Arts Program's *Facebook* page, which as of this meeting had 329 fans. She also stated that she had been working with University professors Jimmy Luu and Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud on a project in which their graphic design class would make suggestions on marketing strategies and styles for the Public Arts Program. This project would begin in February, with a presentation to be made in March.
- With regards to the FY11-12 Public Arts Program Planning, Ms. Hochhalter reported that staff was preparing the planning process for the upcoming FY11-12 program plan.

She stated that she would like for each Commission member to review the current program plan to see what was and/or wasn't accomplished, and to think about what should be included in the upcoming year. There will be an agenda item for more discussion on this in February.

- With regards to recent projects with partners, Ms. Hochhalter reported that there had been recent staff changes for 40 North/88 West. She stated that Megan Wolfe resigned in early Fall, and Stephen Bentz would be resigning in one or two more weeks. They both accepted positions elsewhere in the community. She reported that Kelly White is on staff now and is taking on additional responsibilities until those positions are filled. Ms. Hochhalter also stated that Adam Yeazel is the new executive director for the Urbana Business Association.
- For upcoming events, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for February 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. She stated that planning for the Boneyard Arts Festival was beginning to take place and is being run by Lea Petit. Ms. Hochhalter also announced a film project funded by a 2010 grant called "Riot Acts, Flaunting Gender Deviance in Music Performance" which was scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 309 W. Green St. from 6-9 pm.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

- **Discussion on the Boneyard Creek Improvement Project**

Mr. Carrino introduced this agenda item. He reported that the subcommittee had met and gave a brief update on their progress. He stated the subcommittee needed to meet again very soon to get some concepts worked out, but there was no immediate danger of missing any deadlines. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Hochhalter announced the 2011 Women of Distinction dinner being held on May 5th at Hawthorn Suites in Champaign. She stated that Commission member Barbara Hedlund had been selected as the 2011 Woman of Distinction.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Hedlund made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. With no further business, Mr. Hall declared the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Submitted,

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Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator