

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: June 14, 2011

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bant, Barbara Hedlund, Ilona Matkovszki, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Lewis

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Berns, Brian Dolinar, Abelden Fields, Aimee Rickman, Dennis Roberts, Elizabeth Simpson, Maggie Taylor, Kristina Williams, Paul Wirth

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 Ms. Sammann. Christina McClelland took roll and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Ms. McClelland stated that the 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Pygmalion Music Festival would be moved to the July 6th meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the May 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Bant 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 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Jazz Festival at the Iron Post**

Ms. Sammann introduced Paul Wirth, owner of the Iron Post. He thanked the Commission for its contributions to the arts and for the grant received. Mr. Wirth gave a brief background and presented a slideshow on his 4 day Jazz Festival which was free and open to the public. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Dottie and the ‘Rail**

Ms. Sammann introduced Aimee Rickman, rhythm guitarist in the group. Ms. Rickman thanked the Commission for the grant received. She gave a brief report on their project in which the band performed 4 free sing-a-long shows in Urbana. Ms. Rickman presented a letter of support of the shows, from the seniors to the Commission to read over. She also presented live video excerpts of some of the performances. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient: Actor Slash Model**

Ms. Sammann introduced Simon Strikeback from Actor Slash Model who joined the meeting by Skype. He gave a background on the Chicago based project that provided three free film screenings which contained documentaries about transgender musicians, to the Urbana area. Mr. Strikeback thanked the Commission for its support and at the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient: Say it Loud: Teen DIY Publishing**

Ms. Sammann introduced Chris Ritzo of the IMC. He thanked the Commission for the grant and gave a presentation on his project which focused on zine-making, and collaborating with other institutions in the community. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient: Elizabeth Simpson**

Ms. Sammann introduced local artist Elizabeth Simpson. Ms. Simpson thanked the Commission and gave a brief presentation on her project titled “Celebrate Urbana/Champaign People’s History Project.” This project addressed the lack of access to art, awareness of local history, and ways people could impact their community. At the conclusion of the report, comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation of 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Poetry for the People**

Ms. Sammann introduced Brian Dolinar and Kristina Williams from Public Eye Newspaper out of the IMC. They thanked the Commission for the grant to support their project. Mr. Dolinar and Ms. Williams gave a brief background on their project which consisted of 4 workshops and a final open mic poetry slam. Mr. Belden Fields also thanked the Commission and spoke briefly on the accomplishments of the project. At the conclusion of the report, comments from the Commission were heard.

- **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:

- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. McClelland reported that the 2009, 2010, and 2011 projects were being completed and reported. She also stated that the Arts Grants subcommittee had been working on evaluating and updating the guidelines, application, and submittal process for the 2012 cycle.
- With regards to Boneyard Creek Public Art, Ms. McClelland reported that the request for qualifications had been released and applications would be due on June 21, 2011. She stated that 11 applications had already been received.
- With regards to the Downtown/Royer subcommittee, Ms. McClelland reported that information would be discussed later on in the agenda.
- With regards to Art at the Market, Ms. McClelland reported that the first Art at the Market workshop, "Found Object Fridge Art: Upcycled Bottle Cap Magnets with Traci Pines" was held on May 28th. She stated that the next one would be Recycled Papermaking with David Black, from 8am-12pm on June 25th. There would also be a demo done on WCIA's the Morning Show on June 22nd at 8:20 am.
- With regards to *Art Now*, Ms. McClelland reported that June's new episode was an interview with local artist, Phil Strang.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. McClelland reported that the paintings of the current Artist of the Corridor, Kathryn Fitzgerald would be on display until July 29th. She stated that there would be a reception for her on June 22nd from 4-5pm in the City Building Lobby.
- With regards to Arts Community, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had been meeting with local arts leaders to get a sense of the arts community and to listen to ideas on how it might be improved.
- 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 362 fans. She also stated that the Urbana Public Arts Twitter account, which could be followed @urbanapublicart, as of this meeting had 60 followers. Ms. McClelland reported that a monthly e-mail newsletter had been sent to 293 subscribers on May 18th.

She also stated that Staff had completed a Graphic Design Bid to obtain quotes on producing new marketing materials for the Urbana Public Arts Program.

- With regards to UPAC New Commissioners, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had been working with the Mayor to direct suitable candidates to apply to fill the three open seats on the Urbana Public Arts Commission. She requested that any recommendations from the Commission be sent to her.
- With regards to grants, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had submitted an application for a Program Grant for General Operating Support from the Illinois Arts Council. She stated that the application had been reviewed and a response would hopefully be received soon.
- With regards to partners, Ms. McClelland reported that the Urbana Business Association was interested in having a potential art event at the 2011 Sweetcorn Festival on August 26th-27th. She stated that any Commissioners who had ideas should submit them to her.
- With regards to conferences, Ms. McClelland reported that she would be attending the 2011 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from June 16th-18th. She stated that she also attended the 2011 One State Together in the Arts Conference in Bloomington-Normal on May 23rd-24th.
- With regards to the Public Art League, Ms. McClelland reported that they were having their selection jury for their most recent call for artist on June 22nd at 5:00 pm so a Public Arts Commission member would need to serve on that jury. Mr. Bant volunteered to serve on the jury.
- With regards to subcommittees, Ms. McClelland reported that a replacement was needed for Cheryl Hayden's spot on the Arts in the Schools subcommittee and that Ms. Hedlund wanted to fill that spot and leave her spot on the Fundraising subcommittee. Ms. Sammann would fill Ms. Hedlund's previous spot on the Fundraising subcommittee.
- For upcoming events, Ms. McClelland reported that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for July 12, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

7. OLD BUSINESS

• Discussion of Downtown and Royer District Brochure Rack

Ms. McClelland introduced this agenda item. She reported that the Downtown/Royer Subcommittee met and gave a brief update on their progress which included ideas for an installation of a directory sign and a brochure rack. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Carrino announced that Ms. McClelland had completed her academic program and that she would now be working in the department $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hedlund made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Winkelmes seconded the motion. With no further business, Ms. Sammann declared the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Submitted,

Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator