

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room  
August 18, 2005  
7:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA ITEM 1:                    Roll Call to Establish a Quorum**

Present:                                Chairperson Steve Kaniewski; Commissioners, Kenneth Webster, Regina Andrews, Lynn Carlson, and Karen Werle.

Absent:                                 Ellen Rodman and Jeanine Soldner.

Staff Members Present:            Jeff Mihelich, Assistant Village Manager; Katherine Thornton, Senior Planner; and Ben Mason, Planner.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:                    Approval of July 21, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the July 21, 2005 minutes. Commissioner Werle moved and Chairperson Kaniewski seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The voice vote noted all ayes and the motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:                    Public Art Display Sites – Status Report**

Mr. Jeff Mihelich, Assistant Village Manager, summarized staff's efforts to secure display approval from the property owners of the 12 public art locations that were recommended for approval by the Commission at its July 14, 2005 meeting. He stated that the Village has thus far received approval to site artworks at 7 of the 12 locations. The 5 properties whose owners have yet to submit a display authorization form were mentioned by staff to be River Pointe Shopping Center, Algonquin Commons, CSD 158 Administration Building, Eastgate Branch Library, and Eastview Elementary School.

*Commissioner Webster* asked whether there are currently display areas for artworks at the Eastgate Branch Library. Mr. Mihelich stated that he was not aware of any artwork displays at the library at the present time.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:                    Identification of Artist Outreach Methods**

Mr. Ben Mason, Planner, discussed the August 12, 2005 memorandum titled Artist Outreach Methods. He provided an overview of the outreach methods staff has identified and is proposing to implement for the public art program's call for artists. Mr. Mason mentioned that most of the outreach methods would direct interested artists to the Village of Algonquin website, where an artist could print an application form and review the

Public Art Master Plan. He stated that if the Commission agrees with the proposed outreach efforts, staff would begin implementation immediately.

*Commissioner Kaniewski* asked what experience staff has in reaching out to the public to announce a Village program or event. Mr. Mihelich stated that Village staff is experienced in conducting outreach campaigns, including the submission of press releases to various media outlets and the distribution of event flyers.

Mr. Mihelich mentioned that Commissioner Werle provided staff with artist outreach comments and he noted that many of her suggestions had been incorporated within the artwork submittal application and other public art program documents. Mr. Mihelich also emphasized to the Commission the importance of spreading information about the Village's call for artists by word of mouth to artists who might be interested in submitting an artwork for consideration.

*Commissioner Webster* inquired whether Commission members might be able to offer artists' names who might be interested in receiving information about the Village's public art program and call for artists. He also asked about the possibility of Commission members receiving personalized business cards that they could hand out when discussing the Village's public art program with the public. Mr. Mihelich encouraged Commission members to send staff the names of artists who should be contacted about the public art program. Mr. Mihelich also stated that he would look into the possibility of providing Commission members with business cards.

Mr. Mihelich indicated to Commission members that staff will work to immediately move forward with its planned outreach efforts and there was a general consensus by the Commission for staff to proceed with its proposed outreach approach.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 5:*                      Artwork Selection Criteria**

Mr. Mihelich outlined the artwork selection criteria that staff had devised for the evaluation of artworks submitted for public display. He recommended that the Commission discuss the criteria and offer comments or suggestions.

*Commissioner Webster* raised the issue of artworks depicting subject matters that might be considered offensive or disturbing to the general public and which would therefore not be selected for display. He asked the Commission to contemplate the term nudity and whether it should remain listed as an example of the types of subject matters that staff suggested would exclude an artwork from being selected. He stated that nudity can be depicted in a variety of both real and abstract forms and cautioned the Commission against a strict exclusion of all forms of nudity. He indicated that it might be suitable to allow the Public Arts Commission some flexibility in determining the appropriateness of recommending artworks for display that depict a potentially controversial subject matter in light of the fact that staff and the Village Board of Trustees will also be providing selection guidance and oversight.

*Commissioner Werle* inquired as to whether the Village's citizenry would want to see nudity in public art. She also commented that during the first year of the public art program it will be important to select artworks that appeal to as many people as possible to build support for the Village's public art initiatives.

*Commissioner Webster* asked Commission members and staff to take a long-term view of the Village's public art program and envision the possibility of the Village operating an art museum in the future. To ensure the professional quality of the museum he commented that the Commission would likely want the ability to choose from artworks displaying a wide range of subject matters.

*Chairperson Kaniewski* suggested that the Commission remove the term nudity from the list of prohibited subject matters to allow the Commission the opportunity to select an artwork depicting some form of nudity.

Mr. Mihelich stated that art galleries sometimes alert people to artworks depicting sensitive subject matters by placing an advisory sign in front of the artwork display area.

*Commissioner Webster* stated that he would like to see an outdoor sculpture garden located in the community as part of the Village's public art program. Mr. Mihelich mentioned that in the first year of the program, artworks will be spread throughout the community in an attempt to introduce public artworks to as large an audience as possible. He stated that in subsequent years, there is the potential to locate a sculpture garden in the Village, possibly on the grounds of the Algonquin Area Public Library off Harnish Drive.

*Commissioner Webster* asked if the phrase "political viewpoints" should be removed from the list of subject matters deemed potentially offensive and inappropriate for public display.

*Chairperson Kaniewski* stated that the selection criteria the Commission agrees to this year can be revised and updated in future years. Mr. Mihelich reminded the Commission that the property owners will also serve as one more layer of scrutiny in the artwork consideration process.

## **COMMISSION MOTION ON SELECTION CRITERIA**

Commissioner Webster moved and Commissioner Andrews seconded a motion to accept the selection criteria proposed by staff without the terms "nudity" and "political viewpoints" listed as prohibited subject matters. The voice vote noted all ayes and the motion carried.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business**

Mr. Mihelich provided a projected timeline for the Village's public art program as it moves forward this fall. He stated that staff would immediately begin conducting its outreach efforts and noted that the deadline for receiving artwork submittals is September

15<sup>th</sup>, however, he indicated that the deadline could be extended if necessary. Upon receiving the completed applications, Mr. Mihelich stated that staff will evaluate the submittals and make detailed recommendations of artworks at the September Public Arts Commission meeting. He also mentioned that staff will provide Commission members with information on the artworks it does not recommend for public display so that the Commission can receive a comprehensive account of staff's artwork selection process.

It was decided that the Public Arts Commission would meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in September to allow staff time to review submissions and provide the Commission with artwork recommendations. Mr. Mihelich stated that if the Public Arts Commission reaches consensus on specific artworks at the September meeting, staff would likely seek approval from the Committee of the Whole and Village Board of Trustees in October.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked staff if the public art program would still proceed as planned this fall if, for example, only 8 artworks are approved for public display. Mr. Mihelich stated that the Village's public art program would still move forward with slightly less than 12 approved artworks.

Mr. Mihelich explained that the public art program's first year will be funded by the Village's general fund and mentioned that the Commission might explore grant opportunities for the public art program in the future. He also noted that the Village has enacted a public art reserve fund that will receive money from new residential and commercial developments that are constructed in the Village.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:                      Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and a voice vote noted all ayes. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Ben A. Mason  
Planner