

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
June 15, 2006
7:30 p.m.**

AGENDA ITEM 1: Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

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

Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Jeff Mihelich, Assistant Village Manager and Ben Mason, Planner.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of January 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the January 18, 2006 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was seconded and a voice vote noted all ayes. The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Implementation Schedule Update

Mr. Jeff Mihelich, Assistant Village Manager, discussed the June 12, 2006 memorandum titled 'Year 2006 Public Art Master Plan – Implementation Schedule'. He stated that staff will soon begin soliciting artwork submittals and the Commission will meet in August to prepare a comprehensive Year 2006 public art display plan to recommend to the Village Board for approval.

Commissioner Soldner recommended beginning the solicitation of artwork approximately six months prior to the submittal deadline next year. The Commission was in general agreement that the outreach period be lengthened and staff indicated it will expand the submittal timeframe in 2007.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Draft Artwork Submittal Application

Mr. Ben Mason, Planner discussed the June 12, 2006 memorandum titled 'Draft Artwork Submittal Application'. He noted some minor changes to the previous year's application form, such as asking artists to indicate how they heard about the public art program.

Commissioners Soldner and *Werle* both recommended some revisions to the description of the public art selection process on page 2 of the application packet. The Commission

was comfortable with the other sections of packet and staff stated it would make the requested changes prior to posting the application on the Village website and sending it out to artists and art organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Artwork Display Sites

Mr. Mason discussed the June 12, 2006 memorandum titled 'Artwork Display Sites'. He reviewed the 10 current display locations and recommended adding 5 additional outdoor sites and 1 additional indoor location for consideration this year. Mr. Mason reviewed a map that illustrated the location of all 16 display sites recommended by staff.

Commissioner Webster advanced the idea of displaying several outdoor sculptures in a single location to add visual interest to outdoor pieces.

Chairperson Kaniewski stated that spreading sculptures throughout the Village provides an opportunity for a large number of people to view the artwork, which is the intent of the public art program.

Commissioner Soldner stated that the Commission will likely be better able to determine how to display outdoor sculptures once members review the pieces that are submitted for consideration. Mr. Mihelich indicated that there is some flexibility regarding the display of outdoor pieces and that the Commission will be able to evaluate the preferred method for arranging outdoor sculptures each year as the collection develops.

The Commission was in general agreement that the current Triangle Park site be removed from consideration due to the limited visibility of the outdoor sculpture currently on display at that location. The Commission suggested the site might be appropriate for the future display of a large-scale sculpture. Based upon suggestions from Commission members, staff stated that in addition to removing Triangle Park from consideration it would also add Riverfront Park and the Prairie Trail bike path to the list of possible display sites.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Artist Outreach Methods

Mr. Mason discussed the June 12, 2006 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. He encouraged Commission members to contact any known sculptors directly about submitting artwork for consideration. Mr. Mason stated that the Commission's assistance in soliciting outdoor sculptures would likely significantly improve the chances that the Village will receive quality outdoor artwork submittals.

Commissioner Werle recommended adding the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Art in Chicago to the list of institutions that staff proposed to

contact about the Village's call for artists. Staff indicated it would send artwork submittal information to both schools.

There was a general consensus by the Commission for staff to proceed with its proposed outreach methods.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Art Education and Photography Exhibit

Mr. Mihelich discussed the June 12, 2006 memorandum titled 'Art Education and Photography Exhibit'. He reviewed the display of the Queen Mary artwork and mentioned that the sculpture generated the most publicity and attention of all the inaugural art displays. Mr. Mihelich summarized the Queen Mary open house and toothpick demonstration held at Village in April and expressed the artist's—Mr. Wayne Kusy's—appreciation to the Public Arts Commission for including his sculpture in the public art program. Mr. Mihelich stated that a new temporary photography exhibit prepared by the Blue Sky project is currently on display in the Village Hall lobby. Mr. Mihelich discussed staff's efforts to encourage area schools to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the public art displays. Mr. Mihelich reviewed the art education programs staff developed and stated that the classes would be held at the end of June. He mentioned that there has been significant interest in the children's art class and the Village has added two more dates for a total of three classes. Mr. Mihelich noted that the adult applied art course might be canceled due to a low level of interest. He indicated staff would provide a summary of the art education programs to the Commission at its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Other Business

Mr. Mason mentioned that a visual slideshow of all the current public art displays is available to view on the Village's website at www.algonquin.org.

Commissioner Soldner stated that she did not receive a grant from the Blue Sky Project, but she is planning on working with the program's director Mr. Peter Benkendorf on an art project with high school students this summer.

Mr. Mihelich proposed the creation of a large outdoor mural as a project the Commission might consider undertaking in the future. He suggested several locations as possible display sites, including the retaining walls along Huntington Drive and West Algonquin Road, as well as, the Algonquin Road bridge. The Commission generally supported the idea of sponsoring the construction of an outdoor mural. *Commissioner Andrews* stated she will provide staff with an artist registry booklet prepared by the Illinois Arts Council, which offers a list of artists working in different media and funding opportunities.

Commissioner Webster stated his interest in the Village purchasing the "Bison" sculpture that is currently on display as part of the inaugural public art program. Mr. Mihelich noted that the bison sculpture has received significant attention from the community. He stated that some have expressed their dislike of the piece while others, including the

Algonquin Historic Commission, have suggested the Village acquire the piece for permanent display.

AGENDA ITEM 9: 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 8:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin A. Mason".

Benjamin A. Mason
Planner