

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
November 29, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

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

Present: Chairperson Liz Miller; Commissioners Carol Sapeta, Richard Rehwaldt, Andrew Rogers, Jennifer Browe-Ullery and Sara Foster.

Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Ben Mason, Senior Planner.

***AGENDA ITEM 2:* Approval of August 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Ben Mason, Senior Planner noted that Staff has not yet completed the minutes from the August 16 meeting and they will therefore be included for approval on the commission's next agenda.

***AGENDA ITEM 3:* Open Meetings Act Required Training**

Mr. Mason reminded commissioners the required online training needs to be completed by the end of December and he offered to arrange for commission members to take the training at a computer in Village Hall if necessary.

***AGENDA ITEM 4:* 2012/2013 Public Art Program Slideshow Presentation**

Mr. Mason gave a presentation of all 36 new public art displays – and one recent artwork donation – that staff recently installed at the various municipal buildings, schools, and libraries in the village. He noted that approximately one-third of this year's artists are first time participants in the program and a variety of media is exhibited, including painting, photography and sculpture.

***AGENDA ITEM 5:* Consider New Locations for Future Public Art Displays**

Mr. Mason explained that over the past few months, several commission members have suggested trying to incorporate some of the local businesses—specifically restaurants—as display locations for future public art displays.

The commission began by reviewing the current locations where art has typically been displayed each year, such as municipal buildings, schools, and libraries. In general, the

commission recommended that whichever businesses ultimately participate, that they be required to sign-off on the selected artworks for their location similar to what the library and school districts currently do. Additionally, it was suggested that artists be required to sign a waiver of liability for the specific location that is designated for the display of their work, to which Mr. Mason noted that all participating artists currently sign a release that stipulates the location where their work is to be displayed. The commission also decided that artwork hung for display at local businesses would feature the standard signage that is placed next to all artworks in the exhibit, and simply list the artist and contact information as the pieces are not priced for sale and the display site is not intended to serve as a third-party broker.

It was also recommended that the commission consider establishing a membership program, where businesses would help sponsor the village's art-related activities and offset some of the costs. There was some preliminary interest in exploring such a membership concept, however there was consensus to pursue the idea as a separate initiative in the future apart from the public display program as the artwork in the annual exhibit is simply loaned to the village by the participating artists.

The commission discussed how best to approach potential businesses about participating in the public art display program. Rather than a mass mailing to the business community, the commission ultimately agreed that it would be most effective for each commissioner to visit a small handful of businesses where they might know the owner or on-site manager. It was suggested that commissioners have a simple color brochure on the public art program to provide prospective businesses and Mr. Mason indicated he would work on producing a tri-fold brochure with artwork photos and background information on the exhibit.

Chairperson Miller recommended publicizing which specific businesses would be participating as display locations as part of the program's annual Call for Artists. The application period usually runs from May to July, and the commission discussed that in addition to a list of participating businesses it will also be important to know the available wall space each business has and the size of artworks it could accommodate for display.

AGENDA ITEM 6: **Consider Proposed Artwork Donation**

Mr. Mason stated that a participant in the annual public art exhibit, Judith Halek, has generously offered to donate one of her artworks that was on display at Historic Village Hall this past year. He explained that the two paintings for consideration are "Evergreen" and "Grey Morning". Mr. Mason gave an overview of both pieces and recommended the commission review each proposed donation and determine which artwork it would like to accept into the village's permanent collection.

In general, the commission remarked on the high quality of each painting and expressed a collective interest in both pieces. After review of each piece and a lengthy discussion concerning the limited amount of display space to hang art within public buildings, a majority of commission members agreed to accept "Evergreen", with the

recommendation that if it is ultimately too difficult to find a suitable space, Staff inquire whether the artist would be willing to donate the smaller piece “Grey Morning” instead.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Local Student Art Exhibit Program

Mr. Mason gave a brief overview of the first annual student art exhibit that the commission held at Village Hall this past Spring. Overall, the exhibit was open to 6th-8th grade students and Commissioner Sapeta coordinated with the local middle schools and arts commission to review artwork submittals and ultimately arrange for the display of 25 pieces.

The commission was in agreement to hold another student art exhibit for middle school students in Spring 2013 and Commissioner Sapeta offered to contact the schools. Mr. Mason will check village and school district schedules and provide the commission with potential exhibit dates to consider at the next meeting.

Mr. Mason indicated that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Annual Algonquin’s Art on the Fox Show

Mr. Mason provided a summary of the preliminary plans for next summer’s Art on the Fox—Saturday, June 15 & Sunday, June 16—and stated Staff is in the process of finalizing the artist application form. Mr. Mason noted that the village did not receive any applications from art fair consultants to help organize the event, per the Request for Proposals (RFP) that was sent out. He explained that direction is requested from the commission in two areas, specifically artist booth fees and whether to conduct a Best in Show award program again next year.

There was consensus amongst commission members to continue offering a Best in Show contest. Commissioners also discussed the jury and booth fees and determined the existing fees are reasonable and the village has not received complaints by participating artists. Commissioner Browe-Ullery made a motion to keep the non-refundable jury fee at \$15 and the exhibit booth fee at \$80 (\$90 after April 30 early-bird registration deadline). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sapeta and a voice vote noted all ayes.

Mr. Mason indicated Staff would proceed with finalizing the 2013 artist application and begin publicizing the Call for Artists. Commissioner Browe-Ullery offered to help forward the application to artists who might be interested in a booth and Chairperson Miller suggested contacting the local high school about the possibility of student volunteers to help assist during the event itself with general operations, such as distributing lunches and water to artists.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Other Business

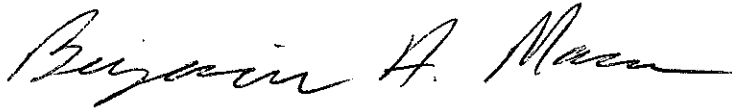
Mr. Mason informed commissioners that over the summer, the Village Board formally appointed Ms. Liz Miller to serve as the commission’s chairperson. Per the

commission's request, he also stated that he will send out a list of current members, and asked that commissioners review and provide Staff with any changes or additions to their personal contact information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: **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 9:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin A. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin A. Mason, Senior Planner