

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room  
June 18, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Absent:                                 Ellen Rodman.

Staff Members Present:        Ben Mason, Senior Planner.

***AGENDA ITEM 2:*                    Approval of May 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the May 21, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Soldner moved and Commissioner Carlson seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

***AGENDA ITEM 3:*                    Algonquin's Art on the Fox show**

Mr. Ben Mason, Senior Planner, discussed the June 18, 2009 memo titled 'Algonquin's Art on the Fox show' and offered some topics to discuss regarding improving the show for next year.

Ms. Ann Leslie reviewed the fine art show and stated that in general, artists appreciated being a part of this year's show and were enthusiastic to come back again next year. She distributed an email from one of the participating artists Ed Iversen, who expressed his overall satisfaction with the show and recommended the commission consider expanding the show to two days next year and possibly move the date later in the summer for an increased chance at better weather conditions. Ms. Leslie stated that the neighboring businesses and merchants were very cooperative sharing portions of their parking lot for the event, specifically the Learning Tree child care center and Bill Stone Studio. She noted that the Raku artists that were located near the gazebo had a particularly engaging booth that invited people to use a potter's wheel to create a small clay object that the artists then took back to their studio in Rockford to fire in a kiln and ultimately mail back to the person who made it.

Commissioner Soldner asked whether Patricia Brutchin who served as the best-of-show judge at the fine art show has received her stipend for \$150. Mr. Mason mentioned the village needs some information from Ms. Brutchin prior to processing a check and he

would follow-up with Commissioner Soldner to provide detailed information about the required paperwork.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked Ms. Leslie if it is possible to estimate the total amount of sales artists made during the show. Mr. Mason indicated that staff would soon be mailing out a questionnaire survey to all the participating artists to get their feedback and one of the questions asks the artists to provide their approximate amount of sales.

The Commission discussed preliminary plans for next year's show, including whether to move the show to a different weekend, consider raising the jury fee, possibly expand to a two-day show, and brainstorm ideas for promoting the show.

Commissioner Webster mentioned that a two-day show would require security and both he and Commissioner Soldner offered that oftentimes a majority of sales are made on the second day of a show after people have had a chance to see the artwork the first day, then think about whether to buy a particular piece overnight, and ultimately return the second day to make a purchase. Overall, the Commission was in favor of expanding the show to a second day.

Commissioner Webster reviewed the fees other area shows in the suburbs and Chicago charge artists. He noted that fees ranged from \$70 as a low to upwards of \$400-\$500. In general, the Commission supported keeping the booth fee under \$100, but recommended charging a separate non-refundable jury fee that artists be required to pay to be considered for acceptance into the show. Overall, the Commission determined that the booth fee should be \$50 and the non-refundable jury fee should be set at \$15.

Regarding the date of the show, Commissioner Webster provided an overview of the dates when other area shows typically hold their summer art shows, and he stated that there are not many shows the first weekend in June, which is when the commission held its show this year. He noted the other dates when few art shows appear to be scheduled in area communities are the last weekend in June and the first weekend in July around the fourth holiday.

Chairperson Kaniewski expressed that it is not possible to predict the weather from year to year and there is some advantage to being one of the first shows of the season. He stated that Algonquin could position itself to annually hold its show the first weekend in June. Commission members were in agreement that the show continue to be held the first weekend in June, the dates of which in 2010 would be Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6.

Commissioner Webster distributed a list of promotional activities from the Prairie Arts Festival, and the Commission discussed the potential of incorporating similar publicity methods into Algonquin's show next year, including: adding the event dates to the Village calendar; advertising through print, radio, online, and television; creating a purchase award program; and publicizing the event on street pole banners.

Commission members agreed to continue thinking about the framework for next year's show and discuss their ideas further at the next Public Arts Commission meeting in July with the overall objective of finalizing plans in early fall so that the show may be included in the Illinois Art Fair Directory that is published by the Illinois Arts Council.

***AGENDA ITEM 4:***                    **2009/10 Public Art Program – artist outreach**

Mr. Mason explained that staff has begun its annual call for new artwork submittals as part of the Year 5 (2009-2010) Public Art Program. He stated that a copy of the artwork submittal application was included in the packets staff sent to the commission as part of the June 18 meeting packets and he encouraged commission members to forward a copy of the application to any artists they think might be interested in submitting artwork for display consideration. Mr. Mason also noted that the application is available as a PDF on the village's website and the submittal deadline is August 7, 2009.

***AGENDA ITEM 5:***                    **Artwork Donation Process**

Mr. Mason discussed the June 18, 2009 memorandum regarding the establishment of a formal process for the Commission's review and potential acceptance of future artwork donations. He explained that two artists that had participated in the annual public art program donated artwork to the village last year and he recommended the commission consider methods for adopting a procedure that can be used to accept or decline any future donations.

In general, there was agreement amongst commission members that any future donations be reviewed by the Public Arts Commission. Commissioner Carlson recommended staff create an inventory list of donations, including artwork location should a friend or relative of the artist call the village wanting to know where specifically a piece is on display so that they may go and visit. She suggested two copies of the list be made, one as a back-up that is kept in a different location from the primary list.

Commissioner Soldner offered a contact person at the Barrington Area Library that is involved with handling donations and suggested staff inquire as to what process the library follows for reviewing and accepting donations.

The Commission also recommended asking the Algonquin Historic Commission what procedures it has in place regarding donations. Mr. Mason indicated that staff would research how the aforementioned institutions process donations and follow-up with commission members at an upcoming Public Arts Commission meeting.

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

Mr. Mason distributed two articles to the Commission, titled "Increasing Arts Demand Through Better Arts Learning" and "Politically and historically correct art don't always mix". Commission members also discussed a date for its next meeting and decided on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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 8:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin A. Mason". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Benjamin A. Mason, Senior Planner