

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
September 17, 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, and Lynn Carlson.

Absent: Regina Andrews and Ellen Rodman.

Staff Members Present: Ben Mason, Senior Planner.

***AGENDA ITEM 2:* Approval of August 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the August 20, 2009 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented and adding the commission's consensus that any artwork donation offered for village consideration must be of original design and execution was seconded and a voice vote noted all ayes. The motion carried.

***AGENDA ITEM 3:* Horses of a Different Color Public Art Exhibit**

Mr. Ben Mason, Senior Planner introduced Ms. Ann Henslee of the Main Stay Therapeutic Riding Program in Richmond. He explained that Ms. Henslee is the director of the 'Horses of a Different Color' public art exhibit in Woodstock and was invited by Commissioner Lynn Carlson to attend the commission's meeting to share her experiences and provide some background on organizing a figurative fiberglass art display program.

Ms. Henslee described the mission of Main Stay Therapeutic as a countywide organization that provides equine-related therapeutic activities to children with social, physical, emotional, and psychological disabilities. Ms. Henslee explained that Main Stay Therapeutic decided to plan the Horses of a Different Color art program as a fundraiser, which took approximately two years to organize. She stated that a carousel horse was chosen as the theme of their public art exhibit in Woodstock for the joy that it brings to children.

Ms. Henslee mentioned that the carousel horse fiberglass molds were obtained from the Chicago-based company Cow Painters, Inc. She stated that the company designed the cow molds for the City of Chicago's Cows on Parade program a decade ago and can create any mold or object. Ms. Henslee noted that the cost of each fiberglass carousel horse was \$1,500.

Commissioner Werle asked whether the cost of a mold varies for new designs as compared to molds that have already been created for other public art exhibits. Ms. Henslee indicated that in general the cost of a mold is less for existing forms the Cow Painters, Inc. company has already produced.

Ms. Henslee and the commission members cited examples of other themed public art exhibits in suburban communities, including: huskies in DeKalb; buffaloes in Buffalo Grove; horses in Barrington; and rainbows in Park Ridge. Commissioner Werle and Commissioner Soldner noted that the Algonquin Public Arts Commission has previously discussed considering a tee-pee or buffalo theme for Algonquin.

Ms. Henslee explained that the Horses of a Different Color program consists of approximately 25 carousel horses at a variety of locations around Woodstock, centered around the historic downtown square. She mentioned that Main Stay Therapeutic actively sought sponsors and donors for the program to help pay for the cost of the fiberglass molds as well as an honorarium of \$1,000 to each participating artist. She noted that the carousel horses will be auctioned-off at the end of September and advanced bidding is available online prior to the auction in order to establish a floor price for each piece.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked what are the most important considerations when planning a themed public art exhibit such as the Horses of a Different Color program. Ms. Henslee stated that some of the most significant elements include: working with the local Chamber of Commerce to publicize and promote the program; preparing a call for artists letter that is sent out to area art organizations such as Chicago Artists Coalition; obtaining support from the local business community to help sponsor and fund the program costs which primarily consist of the fiberglass molds and artist honorarium; and working with the village's Police Department to address any potential security issues and identify suitable locations for displaying the sculptures.

Overall, the information and recommendations provided by Ms. Henslee were greatly appreciated by the commission and she offered to answer other questions the commission may have with any future endeavor to organize a similar themed public art exhibit in Algonquin.

AGENDA ITEM 4: **2010 Algonquin's Art on the Fox**

Mr. Mason discussed the September 17, 2009 memo titled "2010 Algonquin's Art on the Fox" and offered some topics to discuss regarding plans for next year's show. Specifically, he asked the commission to consider the show hours and whether to offer a reduced booth fee for local artists and/or artists that have participated in the village's public art program.

There was consensus by the commission to set the same show hours of 10:00am-5:00pm for both Saturday and Sunday to provide a consistent event time throughout the weekend.

Commission members were also in agreement that in order to be fair to all artists, everyone accepted into the show should be charged the standard \$50 booth fee.

Mr. Mason mentioned that the commission has suggested adding several different activities to next year's show—including music, food, artist reception, purchase award program—and he encouraged members to consider the different ideas and which activity they would be willing to volunteer for and coordinate as part of the show.

Chairperson Kaniewski suggested the commission also consider sponsorship for next year's show and he indicated he will propose several ideas for the commission to consider at a future meeting.

Mr. Mason mentioned that staff will contact the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) to inquire about the process for submitting the show information to the IAC's annual art fair directory. Commissioner Soldner recommended staff also look into placing the event information in Sunshine Artist magazine.

The commission then discussed whether to recommend the village pursue entering into a contract with Ms. Ann Leslie to once again serve as a consultant to the commission. Commissioner Webster moved and Commissioner Carlson seconded a motion to invite Ms. Leslie back as the Commission's consultant for the fine art show. The voice vote noted all ayes and the motion carried.

The Commission agreed to meet again later in the fall to further discuss plans for next year's fine art show and staff indicated it would contact Ms. Leslie to arrange for her potential involvement in the planning process.

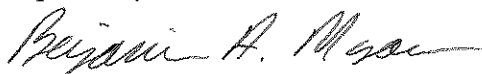
AGENDA ITEM 5: Other Business

Mr. Mason mentioned that the annual open house reception to kick-off this year's new public art displays is scheduled for Thursday, October 15 from 6:00-8:00pm at Village Hall. He also noted that several of the artworks currently on display as part of the public art program have been offered for donation to the respective property owners, including School District 300 and the Village of Algonquin. Mr. Mason indicated that staff would ask the commission to consider the acceptance of artwork offered to the village at an upcoming meeting later in the year.

AGENDA ITEM 6: 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 8:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Benjamin A. Mason, Senior Planner