

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
November 19, 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, Lynn Carlson, and Regina Andrews.

Absent: Ellen Rodman.

Staff Members Present: Russ Farnum, Community Development Director; Ben Mason, Senior Planner; and Katie Parkhurst, Senior Planner.

***AGENDA ITEM 2:* Approval of September 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the September 17, 2009 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was seconded and a voice vote noted all ayes. The motion carried.

***AGENDA ITEM 3:* 2010 Algonquin's Art on the Fox**

Mr. Ben Mason, Senior Planner summarized the commission's general plans for next summer's Art on the Fox fine art show. He mentioned that similar to this past year, the 2010 show will be held the first weekend in June and will be expanded to a two-day show for the first time. Mr. Mason stated that at the commission's previous meeting in September, the general outline of next year's event was finalized and it was determined that the show would be held in Riverfront Park from 10am-5pm on both Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6. He also noted that the commission has set a \$15 non-refundable jury fee for all applications and a separate \$50 exhibit booth fee for those artists accepted into the show.

Mr. Mason discussed the draft artist application form that has been updated for 2010 and offered some topics to discuss, including establishing a deadline for receiving applications and setting a date and time for judging and issuing awards for Best in Show. He also introduced art show consultant Ms. Ann Leslie who attended the meeting to discuss her role and potential scope of services in helping the commission to plan next year's show.

The commission discussed the artist application form and there was consensus to set April 1st as the deadline for receiving applications. Commissioner Webster suggested the

commission also give consideration to applications that are received after the deadline provided additional artists could be incorporated into the show plans, to which Ms. Leslie indicated that would be fine and a waiting list could also be created as well.

Mr. Mason encouraged the commission to discuss the method for reviewing the artist applications for booth space at the show. He noted that this past year Ms. Leslie reviewed the applications and coordinated the acceptance of artists into the show and he asked whether the commission members have any interest being involved in the jury process this year. The commission indicated its preference for Ms. Leslie to review the applications again, provided she would once again be willing to do so.

Mr. Mason provided an overview of Ms. Leslie's responsibilities organizing this past year's show in terms of reviewing the artist applications, arranging for park layout and event setup with village staff, and communicating all the show details with the participating artists. Chairperson Kaniewski asked if Ms. Leslie would be comfortable coordinating the same activities again this coming year, to which she stated she would, however, Ms. Leslie noted it would be better if other separate activities such as music and food were handled by others.

Ms. Leslie advised announcing the show's 'Call for Artists' in January as artists typically schedule their participation at art fairs early in the year. Commissioner Webster inquired as to potential opportunities to publicize the 'Call for Artists' to area artists. Mr. Mason explained that staff has contacted the Illinois Arts Council about the process for submitting show information to be included in their annual art fair directory. He explained that the Illinois Arts Council has indicated it will be shifting to an online directory in 2010 and staff will enter the show information onto the website in the coming month. Mr. Mason also stated that staff is looking into placing a 'Call for Artists' ad with Sunshine Artist Magazine, which had previously been recommended by Commissioner Soldner as a valuable resource for artists interested in locating fine art shows.

Mr. Mason recommended the commission consider a time for judging booth displays to determine Best in Show. There was consensus from Ms. Leslie and commission members to schedule the judging at 10:00am on the first day of the show, Saturday, June 5. Ms. Leslie also offered the idea of a "People's Choice Award" for judging Best in Show and the commission will continue to consider different formats.

Other topics Mr. Mason suggested the commission discuss included holding an artist reception, sponsorship opportunities, and music. In general, commission members were in agreement to further pursue the concept of having a reception for the artists with refreshments in Riverfront Park sometime in the early evening of Saturday, June 5. The commission also agreed that the artist reception would likely be a good opportunity to hand out the best in show awards.

Commission members brainstormed opportunities for area businesses to become involved and sponsor the show. Commissioner Webster suggested contacting large retailers such

as Sam's Club or Costco to inquire about their interest in participating as a sponsor of the show and their willingness to donate supplies or refreshments for the show. Possible methods proposed by commission members for recognizing businesses that sponsor the fine art show included featuring the businesses on show flyers, programs, banners, and providing free booth space at the show. Ms. Leslie advised the commission work with staff regarding regulations for banners and also indicated she will look into possible display areas within the park layout to position potential business sponsors and their booths. Commissioner Andrews recommended and there was general consensus from commission members to limit the number of non-art-related booths to a minimum to ensure that the artist booths remain the focal point of the show.

Overall, there was support from the commission to look into publicizing the event through village publications in the spring and assemble a show directory/program—potentially with information about the participating artists—for distribution to the general public at the show. Chairperson Kaniewski proposed including a directory of the Old Town businesses as part of the publicity materials and asking downtown businesses to post event flyers within their stores prior to the show. Ms. Katie Parkhurst, Senior Planner recommended the commission consider placing an emphasis on attracting local and downtown business sponsors for the show and Chairperson Kaniewski and Commissioner Webster volunteered to reach out to the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Chamber of Commerce to initiate sponsorship discussions with the local business community.

The commission discussed the potential of having a musical group play during the show and Ms. Parkhurst mentioned that Dundee Crown High School has some talented student groups that would likely be interested in performing for a fee of approximately \$200.

The Commission agreed to tentatively schedule its next meeting for Thursday, January 21 to continue discussing preparations for the 2010 Algonquin's Art on the Fox show.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Village of Algonquin Bicycle Rack Art Contest

Ms. Parkhurst provided an overview of the village's new ECO Committee, which is an environmental committee composed of staff members from each village department. She mentioned that the ECO Committee is pursuing designation of the village as a 'Bicycle Friendly Community' from the League of American Bicyclists. Ms. Parkhurst noted that in an attempt to obtain such status, the village is implementing a program to install additional bicycle racks around the village to encourage bicycle riding in Algonquin. She stated that in an effort to combine multiple goals of the village and further its public art initiative, the ECO Committee has decided to hold a competition for area artists to design the new bicycle racks to be installed throughout the community next year. Ms. Parkhurst noted that there will be two categories for bicycle rack designs: one will be to create a signature bicycle rack and the other will be to include art into a standard (U-shaped) bicycle rack. She explained that the standard bicycle racks will likely be placed in front of local businesses and the signature racks will most likely be installed in a village park or other public space. Ms. Parkhurst stated that the village will provide financial stipends

to the selected artists in the amount of \$200 for the standard U-shaped bicycle rack category and \$2,000 for the signature bicycle rack category. She mentioned the village's goal is to have at least two signature bicycle rack artworks and 10-15 standard bicycle rack artworks created and ready for installation sometime in the spring.

Ms. Parkhurst indicated staff is looking for general comments and recommendations from the Public Arts Commission on the bicycle rack art contest prior to formal Village Board approval of the program. She noted that ultimately staff will also be requesting one to two Commission members volunteer to be judges for the competition, which will be held in early February. Ms. Parkhurst mentioned that staff also requests assistance in getting the word out to artists about the contest and would welcome commission member's ideas.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked whether the village is inviting participation from local residents. Ms. Parkhurst explained that the program is open to the public and village staff will be sending out a press release about the Call for Artists and will also be placing the contest information and application on the village website. She noted the village will also be sending contest applications to McHenry County and Elgin Community Colleges and Commissioner Soldner suggested sending the contest information to Harper College as well.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked whether other communities have done similar bicycle rack art programs and Ms. Parkhurst explained that, yes, a number of communities across the country have conducted similar contests.

Overall, the commission indicated its enthusiastic support for the bicycle rack art contest and Ms. Parkhurst mentioned that staff will forward the final contest rules and application form to commission members as soon as the program receives Village Board approval.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Artwork Donations

Mr. Mason discussed the November 19, 2009 memo titled "Artwork Donation Proposals" and explained that several artworks on display this past year as part of the Algonquin Public Art Program have been offered for donation. He mentioned that three of the artworks have been offered directly to the schools where they have been on display and staff is in the process of coordinating with the artists and School District 300 staff to facilitate the donation process. Mr. Mason stated that two additional artworks have been offered for donation to the Village of Algonquin, specifically "Visit Algonquin" and "Spring Dawn". He gave an overview of both pieces and recommended the commission review each proposed donation and determine whether there is consensus to accept either artwork into the village's permanent collection.

There was consensus from the commission to accept "Visit Algonquin", which is currently on display in the Village Hall Board Room. The commission members also expressed their appreciation for the offer to donate "Spring Dawn", however, the commission was unable to recommend its acceptance by the village, due to the limited amount of suitable display space for art within municipal buildings.

Mr. Mason indicated that he will contact the artists whose work was offered for donation to inform them of the commission's recommendations and will arrange for the appropriate paperwork to be completed deeding "Visit Algonquin" to the village.

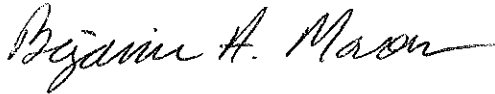
AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

Commissioner Soldner moved and Chairperson Kaniewski seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The voice vote noted all ayes. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.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