

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
July 29, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Ben Mason, Senior Planner.

***AGENDA ITEM 2:* Approval of May 27, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Kaniewski entertained a motion to approve the May 27, 2010 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, discussed the July 29, 2010 memo titled 'Algonquin's Art on the Fox show'. He provided an overview of the event and noted that 38 artists participated in this year's show. A follow-up survey was sent out to all participating artists following the show to obtain their feedback and recommendations for improving the show. Approximately one-half of the artists completed the survey and overall the event was well-received by the artists who appreciated the expansion of the show to include both a Saturday and Sunday this year.

Mr. Mason then introduced Ms. Ann Leslie, the village's fine art show consultant, who reviewed with the commission the specific comments offered by the artists that returned the survey forms.

Ms. Leslie explained that one artist decided not to attend on Saturday due to concerns about the potential for inclement weather and had asked whether setup was allowed for Sunday only. Ms. Leslie responded to the artist in a timely manner that setup would be allowed for Sunday, however, the artist lived a considerable distance from town and was unable to attend to setup their booth this year.

Ms. Leslie stated that the musician that performed at the event was a welcome addition to the show, however, the sound did not carry particularly well beyond the immediate area where the musician was performing and she recommended amplification for next year's musicians.

Ms. Leslie mentioned that one artist recommended the show require artists to provide their state tax identification number, to which she stated that it is the artist's individual responsibility to charge tax on their sales and report it to the state. She also stated that the port-a-potty that was rented for this year's event was insufficient for the two-day event and additional portable toilets will be necessary next year.

Mr. Mason noted that one artist left their tent and artwork in the park overnight and had one of their art pieces taken. He explained that Staff coordinated with the Police Department to conduct some courtesy patrols overnight during the weekend, however, the show guidelines made it very clear that it is at the artist's own risk if they leave personal property unattended in the park.

The commission discussed including food and refreshments at next year's show. In general, the commission preferred the idea of coordinating with a local restaurant to take artists' orders and provide meals directly to the site at lunchtime rather than arrange for an on-site food vendor and any necessary Health Department requirements.

The commission also offered several other suggestions for next year, including posting event signage several days prior to the event, creating a dedicated website to promote the event, and developing a method for ensuring all artists park their vehicles in designated off-street lots to provide nearby on-street parking available for the general public.

Chairperson Kaniewski asked whether attempting to hold next year's fine art show around Founders' Day weekend would be worth considering. Commissioner Werle mentioned that the fine art show might lose some of its identity if it were to be held in conjunction with Founders Day and Commissioner Webster indicated the target audiences for each event are very different. In general, there was interest to explore moving the show date later in June to avoid conflict with area graduation ceremonies and to increase the likelihood of warmer weather. Commissioner Webster stated that typically there are few competing fine art shows the fourth weekend in June and he will ask some area art fair organizers what the potential benefits and drawbacks might be to holding the event in late June.

Mr. Mason mentioned that Staff had calculated the fine art show revenues and expenses and provided the information to the commission. He noted that over the past two years, the event has broken even financially although this year there was a surplus. The commission discussed raising the artist fees next year in order to provide additional amenities for the show, such as more port-a-potties and holding another artist reception. Overall, four out of five artists that responded to the post-show survey indicated they had more than \$100 in total sales for the weekend and the commission supported keeping the non-refundable jury fee at \$15 for next year and increasing the booth fee from \$50 to \$75. The commission also recommended a \$10 late fee be charged to artists that apply after the show's entry deadline, to encourage artists to apply early which would in turn provide Staff with a working estimate of potential revenues for the event.

AGENDA ITEM 4:

2010/11 Public Art Program – artist outreach

Mr. Mason explained that staff has begun its annual call for new artwork submittals as part of the Year 6 (2010-2011) Public Art Program. He stated that a copy of the artwork submittal application was emailed to the commission 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 6, 2010.

The next Public Arts Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 19 to review the new public art submittals.

AGENDA ITEM 5:

Public Arts Commission – member guidelines

Mr. Mason discussed the July 29, 2010 memo titled "Public Art Code – Commission Member Guidelines". He explained that at the last commission meeting there was some discussion about individual members' participation in village sponsored art programs, such as the Art on the Fox fine art show. While Mr. Mason confirmed that commission members have not violated the Public Art Code through their participation in past village sponsored art events and activities, he explained that Staff has given consideration to the matter of members' future involvement in village programs and recommends the commission establish a policy addressing members' eligibility.

The commission discussed the different policy options offered by Staff. One option would prohibit commission members from taking part as an individual artist in any program or event that is directly sponsored or organized by the Public Arts Commission. The commission as a collective entity, however, may have a presence at village-sponsored art events and activities provided that a majority of commission members commit to actively participating in an event and individual Commissioners do not exhibit their own personal artwork for sale.

The other option considered would allow for commission members to take part in events or activities sponsored by the Village and/or Public Arts Commission provided that Commissioners follow all the application requirements, pay any program fees, and not evaluate their own work or be eligible for any awards (e.g., monetary stipends, award ribbons).

Chairperson Kaniewski expressed a preference for commission members to be eligible to participate in future village-sponsored art programs, similar to past practices, provided that commission members continue to adhere to all of the applicable program regulations. Other commission members mentioned it is important to consider potential issues that might arise from allowing commission members who are artists to participate in village-sponsored programs, for example, if two members submit work for acceptance into the same art program and only one member's work is selected.

Overall, the commission indicated that individual members should have the opportunity to choose whether to participate or apply for acceptance into a village- or commission-sponsored art event or program. Regarding the potential for a conflict of interest to arise due to commission members' participation, there was consensus amongst the commission that individual members shall be held to the same application requirements and program regulations as any other artist and not be eligible to evaluate their own work or receive any awards.

Ultimately, there was unanimous support from the commission to recommend the following amendment to the Public Art Code: "Commissioners that are artists shall be eligible to participate in Village of Algonquin sponsored art-related programs and activities; however, Commissioners shall be required to follow all of the regulations and application requirements of each program, will not be eligible for any awards or monetary compensation, and may not evaluate or form recommendations to the Village Board regarding their submittals."

Staff will present the commission's recommended code amendment for review and approval at an upcoming Village Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business

Dick Rehwaldt is one of three potential new Public Arts Commission members and he attended the meeting to introduce himself to the commission and observe the proceedings.

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 9:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benjamin A. Mason".

Benjamin A. Mason, Senior Planner