

City of Elmhurst  
Public Arts Commission

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday January 17, 2019  
2 p.m. – Elmhurst City Hall

**1. Call to Order**

Chairwoman, Betsy Goltermann called the second meeting of the City of Elmhurst, Public Arts Commission (PAC) to order at 2 p.m. Ms. Goltermann welcomed and expressed her appreciation to everyone present.

Present:

Commissioners Betsy Goltermann, Chairwoman; Annette Armstrong, Gene Evans. John McKinnon, Chris Miller, Suellen Rocca, Kristin Sabatino and Val Stewart

Absent: Roz Long

Guests: Kassondra Schref - Communications Manager of the City of Elmhurst,  
Monica Fichtner - Office Manager of the Elmhurst Art Museum

Chairwoman Goltermann confirmed that the City Council has appointed Annette Armstrong as the Commission's Vice Chair.

She introduced Suellen Rocca, curator and Director of Exhibits and Faculty member at Elmhurst College. The college presents approximately 10 exhibits a year and has an internationally known art collection. Suellen, an artist, was in the recent "Hairy Who" exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago.

She also introduced Kassondra Schref, Communication Manager, City of Elmhurst. She is responsible for the Explore Elmhurst program - the City's marketing campaign.

**2. Chris Mill moved that the minutes of the PAC meeting held December 13, 2018 be approved. Annette Armstrong seconded. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The minutes of the PAC meeting held December 13, 2018 were approved as submitted.**

### **3. Public Comment - None**

### **4. Commission Updates & Reports**

#### **a. Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Goltermann stated - good news - there is lots of public interest in the commission. She also said our structure will be project based. The commission has \$20,000 in contributions now being held by the city. The commission is listed on the city website, and many people/groups are ready to help. Arts DuPage is ready to assist us and Kassondra Schref, Communications Manager will coordinate with the City of Elmhurst, including Explore Elmhurst.

She set four goals for today's meeting:

1. Agree on an initial list of projects
2. Discussion/consensus on priorities for 2019.
3. Match Commissioner interest with project
4. Set goals for next meeting on Feb 21, 2019

#### **b. Review of activities since December 13, 2018 meeting**

Discussion items:

- i.** Pocket Park developed by OPUS Group  
John McKinnon - The new Pocket Park will be on the west side of the new 6<sup>th</sup> story mixed use building on the corner of First and Addison -- property owned by the city. The OPUS Group has offered to work with this commission on a public artwork. Funding has been discussed with them and the City. Funding to come from OPUS or their affiliated 501(c)(3).
- ii.** Facade Program / Murals on Buildings  
Annette Armstrong - Other towns have used murals on commercial buildings to great effect. She presented research on the City's facade program and sign ordinances for commercial buildings and zoned areas. There will be further discussion with the City to get clarification on restrictions and ordinance language.
- iii.** Inventory of Public Art  
Annette Armstrong has been in touch with public art commissions in other cities. She will work to coordinate field trips to follow-up further. Members of this commission and the ad hoc task force were involved in a preliminary inventory list of public art in Elmhurst. Locations include Elmhurst College, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst Public Library, Post Office, York High School, Elmhurst Hospital, and the Elmhurst History

Museum. Discussions followed about the definition of public art and what the group might present to the public in marketing materials.

**iv.** New Train Station

The new Metra train station set for completion in 2023 will be a great asset for the City. The commission would like to be involved in any possible conversations. Public artwork could be a great way to greet and leave good impressions with visitors to the City.

**c.** Discuss and prioritize Commission project list

After the last meeting, each Commissioner was asked by Ms. Goltermann to provide feedback and prioritize commission initiatives/projects. Each initiative/project was discussed, a consensus was reached, and Commissioners volunteered to be assigned to various tasks. These include:

- Visiting neighboring towns with established commissions or other public art groups, for the purpose of bringing back best practices. Annette Armstrong will take the lead and will coordinate travel with another commissioner to sites such as Evanston, Naperville, St. Charles, and others. Numbers limited because of OMA.
- Putting together promotional materials in conjunction with Explore Elmhurst. Chris Miller will work with Kassondra Schref to let people know about the commission and mission.
- Reviewing and communicating the existing public art in Elmhurst. Gene Evans will help collect and organize this information for the group to help sort through and publish highlights later.
- Developing a RFP framework. This will likely start with the Pocket Park developed by OPUS. John McKinnon will lead this effort.
- Investigating funding plans for future projects. Betsy Goltermann will investigate the possibility of developing a separate 501c3 for potential donation purposes.
- Refining the mission statement and goals of the commission. Val Stewart will review this and provide suggestions about any amendments.
- Determine with City organizations, where locations might be determined for future projects. Kassondra Schref will ask City officials. Kristin Sabatino will help do additional research.

- Develop a public program this Spring during Art in Wilder Park to promote existing public art pieces. The community-made “Art from the Heart” could be highlighted. John McKinnon will communicate with Roz Long and John Nester about this possibility.

## **5. Other Business -- None**

## **6. Next Meetings**

### **Thursday, February 21**

We will look forward to the following reports:

1. Kassondra Schref report on possible locations for public art
2. Annette Armstrong on field trip findings
3. Chris Miller & Kassondra Schref review Explore Elmhurst opportunities
4. Gene Evans begin draft of existing Public Art
5. John McKinnon OPUS Group developments
6. Val Stewart some revisions to better reflect our goals

### **Thursday, March 21**

All meetings will be held at 2 p.m. at Elmhurst City Hall.

## **7. Adjournment:**

Chris Miller moved for adjournment at 3:50 p.m. Second by Gene Evans.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Monica Fichtner