

City of Elmhurst  
Public Arts Commission

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 13, 2018  
2 p.m. – Elmhurst City Hall

Present:

Commissioners Betsy Goltermann, Chairwoman; Annette Armstrong, Gene Evans, Roslyn Long, John McKinnon, Chris Miller, Kristin Sabatino and Val Stewart

Absent: Suellen Rocca

Guests: Marcia Baker, Marti Deuter, and Jim Grabowski

**1. Call to Order**

Chairwoman, Betsy Goltermann called the first meeting of the City of Elmhurst, Public Arts Commission (PAC) to order at 2 p.m. Ms. Goltermann welcomed everyone and expressed her appreciation to everyone present. She announced that Annette Armstrong has been nominated to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission, subject to Mayor Morley's confirmation. She noted the enthusiasm and excitement of all the commissioners. Ms. Goltermann also announced that eight of the nine Commissioners were present.

**2. Public Comment - None**

**3. Commission Updates & Reports**

- a. Review Background/Recommendation Preceding the Commission Formation

Ms. Goltermann thanked Roz Long for her work in initiating the idea of a Public Arts Commission for Elmhurst. She also thanked Alderman Marti Deuter for her interest, support, and work in proposing the idea to the Public Affairs & Safety Committee as well as Mayor Morley and the City Council. Roz Long noted that without Alderman Deuter's help, the Commission would never have become a reality. Roz Long said she was thrilled at the response to the call for volunteers and thanked everyone who was involved in getting the Commission started.

- b. Discussion of Mission & Goals

Chairwoman Goltermann read the Mission Statement and Goals as stated in the original proposal to the Public Affairs & Safety Committee. She noted that there is certainly opportunity for revision and change in these statements as

Commission's work moves forward. Alderman Deuter noted that the future tasks of the Commission are up to the group to decide and they should feel free to adopt a plan of work with oversight from the Public Affairs & Safety Committee. Kassondra Schref, City of Elmhurst Communications Manager, will act as the contact person with the City along with John McKinnon, Executive Director, Elmhurst Art Museum.

c. Discuss comparison models of other municipalities

Chairwoman Goltermann asked Commissioner Annette Armstrong to summarize her work in researching arts commissions in other communities. Ms. Armstrong noted the following:

**Evanston** – Commission was formed in the late 1990s, meets every month; has lots of public/private partnerships; every ward in the city has art; has a budget of \$75,000 annual and has a line item in the City Budget's general fund. In addition one percent of funds for capital development goes to art.

**Aurora** with population of 200,000 has a Arts Commission established in 1985; seems to have a broader mission. They hold many public events throughout the year.

**Algonquin's** Commission was established in 2005; has a master plan with a \$5,000 annual budget. They have impact fees for new construction projects in a community with lots of open land.

**Palos Heights** has a population of 14,000; there is a regular line item in the City budget for arts projects; they do a lot of fundraising. They are currently working on a \$22,000 sculpture for their butterfly garden. They also have a partnership with the local high school for a mural project.

**Deerfield** holds an annual art fair; they have a high school vinyl banner contest; many partnerships with other community organizations and the high school.

**Elgin's** Commission runs an arts festival and wonderful sculpture garden.

None of the Commissions contacted work within a sub-committee structure.

d. Discuss Elmhurst PAC's structure

Discussion ensued regarding the main areas or thrusts for the Commission's work. The areas that emerged during the discussion were:

- i. **Community engagement** including working closely in partnership with other community groups and businesses, and

ongoing communication with the City with support from Explore Elmhurst.

- ii. **Project management** and selection including appropriate locations, the RFP process, funding, public hearings/comments, and installation of art.
- iii. Appropriate **publicity** for the Commission's work to let the community know of the Commission's accomplishments and plans for the future.

During the discussion of how the Commission should proceed with its first few projects, it became evident that organizing the work on a project-based structure might be the most advantageous. The discussion centered around what types of projects we want to start with, i.e. murals, sculpture, etc. and the impact these first few projects would have on the Commission's image within the community. As examples, Jim Grabowski mentioned the new train station coming to Elmhurst. Commissioner Sabatino mentioned that trends in public art are leaning toward more interactive pieces; Chris Miller mentioned the taking of an inventory of current art in the city and that we should be sure to include everyone who wants to be involved.

e. Review status of Opus Group initiative

Ms. Goltermann asked City Manager Grabowski to explain how the Opus Group art project got started. Mr. Grabowski explained that Mike Kopp had been contacted by representatives from Opus who said they would like to include some type of artwork in the pocket park adjacent to the new apartment building on First Street. Mr. Kopp then asked John McKinnon, Director of the Elmhurst Art Museum, to work with Opus to identify and propose an appropriate piece of artwork knowing that the Public Arts Commission would ultimately be involved in the project. Mr. Grabowski explained the location and some initial ideas that have been floated. Mr. McKinnon explained that he would be meeting with Opus to discuss the type of artwork that would be used for this small outdoor area near the building's entrance. He explained that a budget has not yet been discussed. The small "pocket" park will be a public park owned and maintained by the City of Elmhurst.

**Action Item:** Mr. Grabowski proposed that a meeting be arranged very soon between the City, Opus and two representatives from the PAC to further identify a time line, the type of art to be used, and a budget.

#### **4. Other Business**

City Manger Grabowski also noted that he negotiated with another builder in town for a \$20,000 donation to the PAC. The Commissioners expressed thanks to Mr. Grabowski for his efforts in procuring this donation.

#### **5. Schedule 2019 Meetings**

After some discussion, it was decided that the PAC would meet monthly, at least initially. All meetings are to be posted for the public.

2019 meetings were scheduled for:

Thursday, January 17  
Thursday, February 21  
Thursday, March 21

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

#### **6. Adjournment:**

Annette Armstrong moved for adjournment at 3:55 p.m. Second by Gene Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Val Stewart