

**City of Elmhurst
Public Arts Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 18, 2019

2:00 p.m.

City Hall - Conference Room 200, Second Floor

Call to Order/Welcome/Roll Call

Chairman, Betsy Goltermann called the meeting of the City of Elmhurst, Public Arts Commission (EPAC) to order at 2:10 p.m. Roll call taken:

Present: Commissioners: Betsy Goltermann, Chairman; Annette Armstrong, Vice Chair; Gene Evans, Roz Long, Chris Miller, Suellen Rocca (late, arrived at 2:22 p.m.) Kristen Sabatino, Val Stewart.

Absent: John McKinnon, Commissioner

Guests: Kassondra Schref, Communication Manager, City of Elmhurst; Dan Armstrong, recorder.

Ms. Goltermann welcomed everyone and expressed her appreciation for all present.

2. Approval of March 21, 2019 Minutes

Minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting of EPAC were submitted for approval. No changes or additions. Annette Armstrong moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Chris Miller. Motion carried unanimously with Rocca absent.

3. Public Comment.

None.

4. Commission Updates

Chairman's Comments: Chairman Goltermann noted that the Commission had now been functioning for several months and that she would like input from the other Commissioners regarding the direction and pace of progress towards accomplishing short- and long-term objectives. Ms. Goltermann reserved time to discuss under agenda item "other initiatives."

Communication/promotion/marketing: Commissioner Miller distributed copies of postcards promoting the Elmhurst Arts Commission which he had printed. There was discussion of “points of emphasis” in the printed material. Mr. Miller noted that he had tried to follow the lead of City officials in crafting the language. The cards are for distribution at the upcoming Art in the Park event and other major public gathering around town. Mr. Miller had 300 printed and agreed to work with Commissioner Long in printing additional cards for distribution.

Mr. Miller reported on efforts to develop a web presence. Kassondra Schref of the City’s Communication Department had suggestions for placement of EPAC landing page within the “Explore Elmhurst” section of the City web site. This may eventually be developed to link to the inventory of public art that is an ongoing project of the Commission. Mr. Miller and Ms. Schref will work on this ongoing project and keep the Commission posted.

Report from other communities: Ms. Goltermann noted that she, Mr. and Ms. Armstrong along with Elmhurst Public Library Director, Mary Beth Harper had met with representatives of the City of Evanston and the Evanston Arts Council. Ms. Goltermann noted that the public arts program in Evanston was extensive and well established. She was heartened and delighted by the way the community had embraced public art and the humanizing impact this art had had on a rapidly urbanizing city.

The Evanston arts leaders provided realistic advice including securing funding and developing realistic plans based on that funding stream. They encouraged broad community involvement in developing plans. Funding streams for the Evanston Arts Council included a line items in the City budget; a 1% set aside for public art included in the budget for all City buildings, potential grants from a set aside from an entertainment tax; donations; and TIF funds under applicable circumstances.

It was suggested that Chicago Sculpture International was an organization that could facilitate temporary installations that might provide a less expensive option.

Pocket Park - Ms. Armstrong and Commissioner Sabatino reported on their attendance at the Public Affairs and Safety Committee (PASC) of the Elmhurst City Council on April 8, 2019. At the meeting the RFP for the sculptural installation at the pocket park on First Street near the OPUS development was discussed. There were a number of open items that needed clarification from the city. Ms. Sabatino noted that Opus had volunteered to pour the slab for the base of the installation.

RFP Process - Ms. Goltermann noted that she had also been involved with discussion of the RFP with City officials. It was determined that Ms. Goltermann and Ms. Armstrong will attend the next meeting of the PASC on April 22, 2019 to continue to work with City officials on this matter.

Public Art documentation activity - Commissioners Stewart, Rocca and Long reported on aspect of this program. There was discussion of the packaging and marketing possibilities.

Art in the Park - Several Commissioners will be participating in Art in the Park in various capacities. The promotional cards prepared will be distributed with the goal of raising the visibility of the Commission. John Nester will host a reenactment of the 1997 Clay Stomp, which demonstrates public participation in creating and installing art.

Other Initiatives - At this point in the meeting Ms. Goltermann turned the discussion to the general discussion of the direction of the Commission was taking and the speed of its progress. There was broad and wide-ranging discussion on this matter. Ms. Sabatino, an Administrator at the Morton Arboretum, noted that the Arboretum's lead time for an outdoor art installation was one to two years. Judging by that standard, the Commission was off to a very good start. She noted that all the work that was being done now to establish protocols and relationships with elected and non-elected officials from the City would pay big dividends on future projects. She stated that succeeding projects will get easier as everyone becomes more comfortable in their rolls. She noted that even the public works staff might enjoy the new challenges involved with the installations. It was important to take the time to establish the process early.

Other Commissioners noted that the need for public art was becoming more critical as Elmhurst's downtown core was becoming more urbanized. Several commissioners suggested a need for murals both painted and ceramic to soften the developing urban canyon effect. All agreed that the process could be slow, but the cause was worth the effort.

It was suggested that we might seek to consult with John Pitman Weber, founder of *Chicago Public Arts*. It was also suggested that the Oak Park Arts Council be contacted.

5. City Update

Ms. Schref provided an update from the City. She suggested that if the Commission wished to be considered for a line item in the City Budget a plan for the coming year would need to be submitted to City Manager, Jim Grabowski. The Commissioners will consider this in future meetings of the Commission while the Chairman will continue discussions with City officials.

6. Other Business

Ms. Armstrong reported that she had spoken with U.S. Representative Quigley and his Chief of Staff regarding funding for public art for the new train station which will be paid for, in part, with federal funds. They will explore potential grants to assist with funding.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Miller moved for adjournment at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion carried unanimously.