

**City of Elmhurst
Public Arts Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 27, 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 Chairman; Gene Evans, John McKinnon, Chris Miller, Kristen Sabatino, and Val Stewart.

Absent: Sue Ellen Rocca and Roz Long.

Guests: John Pittman Weber and Dan Armstrong, Recorder.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Goltermann welcomed Mr. John Weber who has a distinguished history as a prominent public muralist and one of the prime drivers of the public art movement in Chicago and far beyond. Mr. Weber provided comments on his experience and of the challenges inherent in advancing public arts. He had a wealth of practical advice about how to involve the community in all phases of an arts projects from initial design through installation and working with public reaction to an installation. He continuously emphasized the importance of listening and engaging in dialog with the public. He said that public art must speak to the public and to do that the artist(s) must begin by listening to the many and various elements of the public. He noted that some elements of the community are much more difficult to engage in dialog than others but that it is important that as many elements of the community are heard as possible.

Mr. Weber also had many practical suggestions for all phases of an installation. When asked, he suggested that the Commission's current budget for the pocket park installation was very tight but not impossible but that the artist may need additional assistance with installation and other aspects of the project.

Mr. Weber answered questions from Commissioners. There was no further public comment.

3. Approval of May 23, 2019 Minutes

Minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting of EPAC were submitted for approval. Ms. Goltermann noted that the Minutes incorrectly labeled the May 23rd meeting as the “fourth” meeting and asked that the minutes be amended. With that correction, Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the revised minutes. Second by Commissioner Sabatino. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business Before the Commission

September 26, 2019 Event -

Ms. Goltermann reviewed plans for the upcoming event at Elmhurst College. The purpose of the event is to introduce the Elmhurst Public Arts Commission to civic leaders in the community and to introduce the newly displayed collection of art at the Elmhurst College Library.

Commissioner Stewart distributed a potential guest list. It was noted that the number of invitees would be limited by the program, available space, and other conditions.

Many details of the event are yet to be finalized. Commissioner Miller will work on the invitation while Ms. Stewart will continue to rework the invitation list.

Ms. Goltermann will work with Commissioner Rocca and appropriate College officials to finalize the details regarding the venue and program.

5. Old Business

Commission Business Plan - Ms. Goltermann noted that she and Commissioner McKinnon are working with Elmhurst City officials in the development of a work plan to be provided to the PA&S committee. There was no action required by EPAC at this time.

Communication/promotion/marketing - It was noted that a recent front page article on the EAC in *The Elmhurst Independent* was helpful in raising public awareness. Current efforts focus primarily on the upcoming September 26, 2019 event.

Public Art Documentation Activity - Commissioner Evans reported that he had been consolidating various data sources so that they will be easily accessible from the City’s web site. He expressed concern for lack of information for some art work.

Pocket Park Call for Artwork / next steps - Commissioner McKinnon reported on the Call for Artwork. Both Mr. McKinnon and Commissioner Sabatino have provided wide distribution of the Call for Artwork to the artist community of northern Illinois and the surrounding Midwest. There have been a number of inquiries from well regarded artists.

Volunteer mobilization - Commissioner Sabatino suggested that an untapped source of volunteer help could be those individuals who volunteered to serve on the Commission. She offered to develop a database of volunteers using available software starting with these initial volunteers for the commission. Ms. Goltermann agreed that this would be a helpful tool to

identify sources of volunteer help. It was agreed that Ms. Sabatino would begin this project as soon as practical.

6. City Update

There was no representative from the City of Elmhurst in attendance.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Evans moved for adjournment at 4:10 p.m. Ms. Armstrong seconded. Motion carried unanimously.