

Public Arts Commission  
North Adams, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

The North Adams Public Arts Commission held a public meeting on February 16, 2017 at City Hall's law library, 10 Main Street, North Adams.

Members Present: Erica Manville, Chairperson  
Julia Dixon, Vice Chairperson  
Cynthia Quiñones, Secretary  
William C. Blackmer, Jr.  
Nancy Ziter  
Eric Kerns

Absent: Gail Kolis Sellers

Also Present: Katrina Staaf

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manville called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OFFICERS ELECTION: ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AD SECRETARY  
Ziter nominated Dixon for Chairperson. Manville seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Ziter nominated Manville for Vice Chairperson. Blackmer second. All In favor. None opposed.

Manville nominated Quiñones for Secretary. Ziter seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ziter moved to accept the Public Arts Commission minutes from its December 1, 2016 public meeting. Dixon seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT UPDATE

At a City Council meeting in December, counselors reviewed remaining ordinance proposals. City Councilors wrote and approved a new draft of the ordinance amendments with minor edits. The most significant change was an additional paragraph in Section 2-178 stating that the commission "shall

develop and recommend to the city council policies and programs that would encourage and enable the planning and placement of public art in locations owned by the city,” establishing the commission’s proactive nature.

Regarding the removal of members, given that no other commission has removal language in their ordinances, the city council felt that it would be best to address this issue on a larger scale, not beginning with the arts commission ordinance.

The council also recommended setting up a Friends of the Public Arts Commission 501c3 for fund raising and management purposes. Dixon will ask the library how they started their Friends of organization. In the meantime, the commission can still receive donations and grants that are designated for the Public Art Commission.

#### REVIEW OF WEBSITE DESIGN BY KATRINA STAAF

Staaf isolated the website to Squarespace and will launch the site and send commissioners a link to view the site. Funding will be needed to sustain the site. She also suggested she could work to move the site to Wordpress, though hosting would be an expense regardless. Home page is a feed of news articles about the commission. So far, only Dixon, Quiñones, and Manville have submitted photos and bios. The site also includes meeting minutes, the application, photos of current public art throughout the city. Staaf is no longer formally interning for academic credit with the PAC, but has volunteered to continue to work on the website, as well as other projects that come up.

Ziter motioned to obtain northadamspublicart.com and .org. Manville seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed. Kerns offered to buy the sites upfront if they are available. Manville wrote to Mike Canalis about obtaining a nominal budget line item of \$500 to cover the website and other related expenses.

#### REVIEW OF LOGO DESIGNS (JULIA)

Dixon had a new logo drafted and sent to commissioners in December. After some discussion of minor tweaks, Manville motioned to approve the logo. Ziter seconded. All approved. None opposed.

#### DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF BY-LAWS

To support the future governance of the commission, Manville suggested that we explore creating by-laws, but the committee has agreed to keep the language as is contained within the ordinance.

#### PUBLIC ATTENDEES CONCERNS

No public attendee concerns were presented.

#### MEMBER CONCERNS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items will include an update on how to establish a Friends of the Public Arts Commission, and a proposal from Griffin Labbanca for a painting on the road near MCLA on Montana Street. Dixon will make a call for agenda items via email.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Arts Commission will be held at 5:30p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2017, at Bright Ideas Brewery.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Ziter moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Manville seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Quiñones, Secretary