

Public Arts Commission  
North Adams, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2016

The North Adams Public Arts Commission held a public meeting on April 7, 2016 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: Zachary Feury

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manville called the meeting to order at 4:01p.m.

READING OF THE MINUTES

After a review of the minutes, Ziter moved to accept the Public Arts Commission minutes from its March 17, 2016 public meeting. Dixon seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

PRESENTATION BY ZAC FUERY ON PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSIONS

Zac Feury discussed the city's Vision 20/30 Plan and proposed that, despite the absence of any specific mentioning of the Public Arts Commission, the plan still does offer a number of potential areas for overlap with its mission, including the facilitation of economic growth, addressing blight, and using signage and branding to increase public art. Feury then discussed the potential creation of an MCLA course for assisting with the creation of a strategic plan for the PAC. Quiñones and Feury also reviewed the internship opportunity for those who were absent at the previous meeting, and updated the group on the submission of a job description.

CREATION OF THE PAC VISION STATEMENT (FOR THE WEBSITE)

The committee revisited the previously discussed and accepted vision statement:

The North Adams Public Arts Commission provides guidance and support to artists seeking to create public art and enhance the quality of life in the City of North Adams.

Manville offered to use this language to design a homepage for the PAC for review at the next meeting.

#### CULTURAL DISTRICT APPLICATION UPDATE

Dixon reported that the city's cultural district application is being completed by a group from MCLA who intend to hold a new public forum (date TBD) and submit the final proposal to the MCC in late April-May.

#### ARTIST APPLICATION PROCESS REVIEW

Members agreed to revisit the application at the following meeting.

#### DOWNSTREET ART

Dixon reported on DownStreet Art's three phase approach to the coming year: 1. Calls for exhibitions; 2. Performance pieces; 3. Creative business incubator. She noted that none of these areas will involve public art or require the involvement of the PAC.

#### PUBLIC ATTENDEES CONCERNS

None presented.

#### MEMBER CONCERNS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kerns proposed that plans be made for a first call for art in an effort to promote community involved art pieces. Manville suggested a "sponsor a space" business/artist sponsorship to address costs and engage more community members. Dixon recommended that the PAC develop a budget and marketing plan with an eye towards short and long term goals before rolling out any upcoming projects. Committee members agreed that the topic was of interest and deserved further discussion at the next meeting.

Future agenda items will include a finalization of the artist application process, a review of the PAC home page (to be created by Manville), the creation of short and long term goals (to be initially drafted by Dixon), and discussion of the Sponsor the Space call for art. Following its public agenda, the committee will move into executive session to review applications for the internship position.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Arts Commission will occur on April 28 at 4:00p.m. at the Law Library meeting room in City Hall.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Manville moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:02p.m. Ziter seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Quiñones, Secretary