

Public Arts Commission
North Adams, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2016

The North Adams Public Arts Commission held a public meeting on June 2, 2016 at City Hall's law library, 10 Main Street, North Adams.

Members Present: Erica Manville, Chairperson
Julia Dixon, Vice Chairperson
Gail Kolis Sellers
William C. Blackmer, Jr.
Nancy Ziter

Absent: Cynthia Quiñones
Eric Kerns

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manville called the meeting to order at 4:04p.m.

READING OF THE MINUTES

After a review of the minutes, Ziter moved to accept the Public Arts Commission minutes from its April 7, 2016 public meeting as edited with the correct date. Blackmer seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

WEBSITE HOME PAGE REVIEW

Manville described the process of creating the Public Arts Commission home page to the commissioners. The current design of the website contains a link to the artist application, a summary of the application process, and an email contact for the commission: publicarts@northadams-ma.gov. This website can be updated with more pages and information if/when needed.

ARTIST APPLICATION PROCESS: FINAL REVIEW

The commissioners agreed to review the artist application one final time as it appears on the website: <http://publicarts.northadams-ma.gov>

BUDGET AND MARKETING GOALS/PLAN DISCUSSION

In prior meetings, Dixon and Kerns expressed a desire to proactively seek out artists proposals for public works on city-owned properties. Manville disclosed that, after a discussion with Mayor Alcombright, it was clarified that the commission was established to determine the processes that vet artist inquiries.

The commission would not be able to create opportunities for public art projects on city-owned property unless the ordinance is changed. Dixon agreed to review the North Adams ordinance, Pittsfield's Artscape ordinance, and solicit help in drafting additional language for inclusion.

SUMMARY OF RACHEL SUSSMAN'S SIDEWALK KINTSUKUROI PROJECT

Manville presented the commissioners with a summary of Rachel Sussman's sidewalk project facilitated by MASS MoCA. The temporary gold leafing of cracks in city sidewalks was pre-approved by Mayor Alcombright and Manville was notified of the project as it was underway. Commissioners expressed concern that scaffolding had not been taken down. Dixon volunteered to communicate with MoCA's curatorial staff about the commission's process for reviewing public art projects on city property.

"SPONSOR A SPACE" DISCUSSION

Given the information presented during agenda item 5, the commissioners agreed to skip this item.

REVIEW INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS

Dixon gave each member a copy of K. Staaf and S. Bedell's cover letter and resume, and provided a summary of the phone interviews conducted with the two MCLA internship candidates. All commissioners agreed that both candidates were well qualified, although commissioners cited K. Staaf's experience with WordPress and her writing ability as especially pertinent skills. Ziter moved to accept K. Staaf as the Public Arts Commission Fall 2016 intern. Manville seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES CONCERNS

None presented.

MEMBER CONCERNS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Regarding an inventory of city-owned property disseminated to the commission by Ziter, Dixon agreed to rate each space by appropriateness for display of public art.

The commissioners then reviewed members' terms. Dixon and Quiñones were approved by the City Council on May 10, 2016 to serve on the Public Arts Commission for another 5 years. It was discussed whether more specific term conditions should be added to the ordinance.

Sellers then discussed Art About Town's plans to paint several city crosswalks on June 11, but was forced to reschedule based on conflicting events and public safety concerns.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Arts Commission will occur on June 30, 2016 at 4:00p.m. in the Law Library meeting room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Manville moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11p.m. Ziter seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Dixon, Vice Chairperson