

Public Arts Commission
North Adams, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2016

The North Adams Public Arts Commission held a public meeting on July 21, 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.
Gail Kolis Sellers
Nancy Ziter

Absent: Eric Kerns

Also Present: Phil Sellers (Art About Town)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manville called the meeting to order at 4:03p.m.

READING OF THE MINUTES

After a review of the minutes, Ziter moved to accept the Public Arts Commission minutes from its June 30, 2016 public meeting. Dixon seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

REVIEW OF CONTRACT DRAFT

The commission tabled this discussion until a draft of a sample artist contract could be presented.

REVIEW OF LOGO

Dixon reported that the new North Adams signs had been designed by a company in Boston who had shared a 15-page style kit with the city for the creation of future materials. Dixon arranged for a local designer to create some possible logos for the commission, and will share the results with the commission for feedback before the next meeting.

AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE

Commissioners discussed the need for potential amendments to the Public Arts Commission ordinance, including two central points: 1. Commissioner attendance responsibilities; 2. An explicit focus on a more active pursuit of a public arts program in North Adams. Specifically, the commissioners agreed that in order to actively pursue a public arts program, they would need to have the power to explore funding

opportunities and make calls for art. Phil Sellers, who was present during the ordinance's development, noted that the writers of the ordinance had deliberately kept the language simple so that it could be built upon and expanded as the commission took shape. Ziter noted the importance of completing the commission's basic first steps (e.g. establishing a website, developing an artist application process, etc.) before expanding the group's activities. Since most of these steps have been completed, or nearly completed, the commissioners agreed that moving forward into a more proactive role would be a logical next action.

Dixon and Quiñones have meetings scheduled with two city councilors who were instrumental in the ordinance's creation, Kate Merrigan and Eric Buddington. After receiving their guidance in the amendment process, Dixon and Quiñones will report back on the meetings and share a draft of proposed language for the amendment.

ART ABOUT TOWN REVIEW OF PROJECTS

On behalf of Art About Town, Phil Sellers reported on two upcoming community art events: 1. A tempura painting on Holden St. to be created during the August 10 downtown celebration; 2. A crosswalk painting on Holden St. scheduled for September 2, with the support and coordination from Councilor Ben Lamb. Commissioner Sellers noted that Art About Town would be glad to help guide artists with new projects through the process of applying to the commission.

Phil Sellers also noted that, regrettably, the Main Street crosswalk paintings will be postponed until the spring of 2017 due to weather conflicts and corresponding logistical challenges.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES CONCERNS

None presented.

MEMBER CONCERNS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items will include a review of language intended for the ordinance amendment, a review of the commission logo options, and a discussion regarding the Public Arts Commission intern responsibilities for the fall.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Arts Commission will occur on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 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 5:05p.m. Ziter seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Quiñones, Secretary