



CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE
AGENDA
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
City of Crystal Lake
100 West Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL
September 13, 2023
8:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approve Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Public Arts Commission Meeting**
4. **Public Presentation**
The public is invited to make an issue oriented comment on any matter of public concern not otherwise on the agenda.
5. **Strategic Plan Discussion**
6. **Open Discussion**
7. **Adjourn**

If special assistance is needed in order to participate in a City of Crystal Lake public meeting, please contact Nick Hammonds, Assistant City Manager, at 815-459-2020, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, if possible, to make arrangements.



DRAFT

**CRYSTAL LAKE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023
HELD AT THE CRYSTAL LAKE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Noble at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members David Bradburn, Brynn Jeffries, Kathy Hajdrowski, Nancy Merklings, Patti Noble and Lynn Reckamp were present.

Kathryn Cowlin, Community Development Director, Katie Rivard, Assistant City Planner, and Nick Hammonds, Assistant City Manager, were present from Staff.

Mayor Haig Haleblian, James Knight, Justin Wellington and Jen Oliver were also present.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2023 PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

Ms. Hajdrowski made a motion to approve the May 24, 2023 Public Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Bradburn seconded the motion. On roll call, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

None.

ART DONATION AT THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Ms. Cowlin introduced the item and reviewed the possible locations at Three Oaks Recreation Area for the two art pieces. Mayor Haleblian described the two pieces and he shared he would like to donate them to the City for public viewing. One looks like a sail and the second is a barn topper, which could be modified if desired. The sail is approximately 7-8 feet in height and the barn topper is 5-6 feet and four feet in depth.

There was an open discussion on the proposed locations and general agreement that the more visible location would be best for safety and getting the most eyes on the art. The Commission had a desire for the art to have meaning and tie into the location, so the sail would be a good fit for Three Oaks Recreation Area. The barn topper might be better somewhere else in town that had a history of being farmed.

There was a concern about kids climbing on the sculpture. The group agreed that it would need landscaping around it to deter anyone from wanting to climb it.

Ms. Noble asked staff what the percentage of attendance was resident vs. non-resident at Three Oaks. It would be good to have art in a location where people from all over will see it. Mr. Hammonds shared the attendance is approximately 65% non-resident.

Mayor Haleblian added the Downtown Depot Park could be a location for a bench project in the future. The benches get painted by local groups and displayed. They could work with MCC artists or businesses could sponsor a bench.

Ms. Jeffries made a motion to recommend to the City Council the sail sculpture be placed at location number one from the packet materials and be installed on a pedestal with landscaping. Ms. Hajdrowski seconded the motion. On roll call, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Ms. Noble spoke to the mission, vision and values as a way to kick-off the strategic plan.

Ms. Hajdrowski read through some suggestions for mission statements. Key words included, “transform the city, living gallery and community”.

Ms. Noble noted community, inclusion, diversity and accessibility.

Mr. Knight liked the stronger sense of place, how to tie into who we were, who we are and who we want to be.

Ms. Noble noted evolution is a great concept.

The discussion shifted to vision statements.

Ms. Hajdrowski read through some suggestions for vision statements. Key words included, “ignite creativity, city where art flourishes, transform urban landscape to reflect the values”.

Mr. Bradburn added engaging all mediums of art.

Ms. Cowlin asked which key words should be carried into the vision statement.

Ms. Merklung shared art ties to economic draw for a community. There is a “save the arts” movement and weave the “how” into the mission statement. Inject value into everyone’s life and arts are important.

Ms. Hajdrowski added seek opportunities to incorporate art into urban planning and new development.

Mr. Wellington talked about Seattle’s interactive art park and one in New York.

Mayor Haleblian added murals are great for interaction. Ms. Reckamp agreed and would love to see one in Downtown Crystal Lake. Ms. Oliver shared Ottawa, IL has a lot of murals, too.

Ms. Hajdrowski added key words like future and enrich the lives of others.

Mr. Knight added it would be great to see art from the trains.

Ms. Cowlin shared desired locations can be part of the strategic plan. Ms. Noble added that they can get these ideas worked out after the mission statement is determined.

Ms. Merklng added the Art Prize Grand Rapids, MI and how it is an amazing annual event that draws people to the area. Art is for sale and displayed in businesses and outdoors.

Ms. Noble concluded the discussion with asking the Commissioners to think about mission, vision and purpose statements. They should work on those after the meeting and city staff will send out some suggestions based on today's discussion.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Oliver shared she would like to continue to attend the meetings and take part in the discussion. She can share and communicate information with the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD). MCCD has the Prairie Path that runs along Main Street and this area could be an opportunity for public art displays. The underpass would be a prime candidate for a mural. MCCD staff supports this idea.

Mayor Haleblian asked who owns the underpass and shared there are some great murals in Bend, OR. Ms. Cowlin stated that MCCD is responsible for the underpass.

Ms. Noble shared there are some great local artists that could be part of the project.

Ms. Merklng said this is an easy low hanging fruit that could be done quickly. How can the ball get rolling on this project? Ms. Cowlin said staff will look into this and talk with MCCD.

Ms. Merklng asked generally speaking is the Commission looking to feature local artists or McHenry County artists. Will there be a blind jury selection? Ms. Jeffries said we can make up the rules.

Ms. Noble said all of this can come back to the mission and details about RFPs, funding and donations will fall into place with the strategic plan.

Ms. Rivard added that goals can be set to accomplish some of the items discussed and tasked the Commission with thinking about those.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Merklng made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hajdrowski seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.



Public Arts Commission
Summary Report
September 13, 2023

Below is information relating to the agenda items. A summary report will be included in the packet for each meeting if there is additional information that needs to be shared for the agenda items.

5) Strategic Plan Discussion

- Formulate the Commission's mission, vision, and value statements and start establishing goals and objectives
 - Draft Strategic Plan outline attached
 - Statement Descriptions attached
 - Proposed Mission, Vision, Value and Purpose Statements attached
- Example Strategic Plans
 - Village of Algonquin, IL:
<https://www.algonquin.org/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item&id=37>
 - Rancho Cucamonga, CA: <https://www.cityofrc.us/sites/default/files/2023-05/RC%20Public%20Art%20Plan%20Booklet%20Web.pdf>
 - San Francisco, CA:
https://www.sfartscommission.org/sites/default/files/documents/SFAC_FinalFinal_Plan_021414-reduced.pdf
 - National Endowment for the Arts:
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/2022-2026-Strategic-Plan-Feb2022.pdf>
 - City of Arlington, WA:
<https://www.arlingtonwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2419/Public-Art-Strategic-Plan-2019-final>
 - Chattanooga, TN: <https://publicartchattanooga.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Chattanooga-Feb-13-2019.pdf>

6) Open Discussion

- Three Oaks Sculpture Update
- Be a Tourist in Your Hometown Update

Strategic Plan Outline

Phase 1

A. Executive Summary (COMMISSION)

1. Vision, Mission and Purpose
 - a. Purpose Statement
 - b. Vision Statement (What do we want to be)
 - c. Mission Statement (How do we get to our vision)
 - d. Core Values Statement (What do we stand for)

B. Commission Structure (STAFF)

1. Commission Description
 - a. The seven voting members of the Public Arts Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor and City Council.
 - b. The Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street and Historical Society should recommend one member each.
 - c. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years.
 - d. All terms shall expire on XX in the year of expiration.
 - e. Appointing a chair
2. Member Qualifications
 - a. Members of the Commission must be residents of Crystal Lake, attend a school in Crystal Lake, or otherwise own a business in Crystal Lake.
 - b. It is preferred that Commission members have some personal or professional experience, but it is not required.
3. Meetings
 - a. The commission meetings will take place bi-monthly at 8am on the last Wednesday of the month.
4. Commission Duties and Functions
 - a. To provide recommendations of potential locations for public art.
 - b. To spread awareness of public art to the Crystal Lake Community at local events.
 - c. To hear presentations from local artists for potential locations and art pieces in the City of Crystal Lake.
 - d. To receive applications for public art submissions and provide recommendations to the City Council.
 - e. To accept and administer on behalf of the City of Crystal Lake, upon designation by the City Council, such gifts, grants and money as may be appropriate for the purpose of this chapter.
 - f. To award grant monies to any applicant that satisfies the necessary submittal requirements to be awarded Commission grant funds. The grant monies are to be awarded at the Commission's discretion and are intended to promote appropriate installations, repairs, upgrades and changes to public art features.
5. General Guidelines
 - a. Community Development and City Manager's Office to provide staff support to the Commission
6. Funding Sources

- a. General Fund
- b. Donations
- c. Grants
- d. Fundraising

C. Goals (What we need) and Objectives (How to get what's needed), Strategies (Making it happen)
(COMMISSION)

1. Goal 1: Build awareness and promote understanding about public art and the benefits of the arts in general
 - a. Objective 1.1: Definition and examples of all public art forms
 - b. Objective 1.2: Reasons why to support the public arts
 - c. Objective 1.3: Engage and Educate
2. Goal 2: Support Local Artists and Art
 - a. Objective 2.1: Promote interest in art appreciation and understanding of various art forms
 - b. Objective 2.2: Art events/features (Artist of the Month, Art Fair, etc.)
3. Goal 3: Encourage Community Involvement and Inclusion
 - a. Objective 3.1: Encourage volunteer support/involvement
 - b. Objective 3.2: Collaborate with other organizations
 - c. Objective 3.3: Solicit regular feedback from the community
 - d. Objective 3.4: Promote diversity and cultural experiences in art
 - e. Objective 3.5: Communication
4. Goal 4: Integrate work of local artists into public and private projects to improve the residents' and visitor's experience and economic vitality of the City through the enhancement of public places
 - a. Objective 4.1: Provide site-integrated art within public projects such as streetscape, parks, and other public improvements
 - b. Objective 4.2: Encourage private developers to include public art as part of their developments
 - c. Objective 4.3: Designate desirable locations for public art installations
5. Goal 5: Enhance the community's sense of place
 - a. Objective 5.1:

Other Topics to Consider:

A. Art Display Locations

- a. Location criteria
- b. Site Prioritization Process
 - i. High Priority Areas (highly visible, contribute to placemaking priorities)
- c. Designate desirable locations for public art installations.
- d. Location of existing art

B. Artwork Selection Criteria

- a. Process for commissioning public art

Purpose Statement

Description:

- Explanation of motivations and reasons for being.

Proposed Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the Crystal Lake Public Arts Commission is to harness the power of art to create meaningful and accessible experiences that transcend boundaries, foster dialogue, celebrate diversity, and implement the objectives of the City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Through the public arts commission and strategic plan, we aim to ignite conversations, provoke emotions, and spark a sense of belonging among residents and visitors alike. By collaborating with artists, stakeholders, and the public, we strive to curate a dynamic tapestry of artistic expressions that reflect the unique identity and aspirations of our community, contributing to a more engaging, resilient, and beautiful urban environment. The goals, strategies, and XX are outlined herein to provide a common guideline for decision-making.

Vision Statement

Description:

- Looks forward and creates a mental image of an ideal state we want to achieve.
- Inspirational and aspirational.
- Questions to consider:
 - What “problem” or need are we seeking to resolve?
 - Where are we headed?
 - What do we want to look like in the future?

Proposed Vision Statement:

To cultivate a vibrant and inclusive community by integrating all mediums of public art to inspire, connect and enrich the cultural fabric of our shared spaces. Public arts have the opportunity to transform the urban landscape, encourage diverse voices and bring beauty, awareness, and excitement to our surroundings. The Crystal Lake Arts Commission will enhance, educate, and engage our community and its visitors through visual, performing and experiential arts.

Mission Statement

Description:

- Concise explanation of the reason for the Commission's existence.
- Supports the vision and communicates the purpose to the community.
- Questions to consider:
 - What is our purpose?
 - Why do we exist?
 - What are we trying to accomplish?

Proposed Mission Statement:

To enhance and engage the community through cultural experiences where public art is transformative, accessible and flourishes. To promote opportunity for the creation, presentation, and appreciation of the visual and performing arts which [contribute to] a strong, inclusive, and cohesive community.

Core Values Statement

Description:

- Core principles guiding us.
- Creates moral compass and guides decision-making.
- Questions to consider:
 - What values are unique to us?
 - What values should guide our operation?
 - What conduct should we uphold?
 - What do we stand for?
- Some words to consider: community, diversity, culture, collaboration, accessibility and awareness.

Proposed Core Values Statement:

The Public Arts Commission has defined the following core principles:

1. **Creativity and Innovation:** We value the exploration of new artistic horizons and encourage innovative approaches that challenge conventions and inspire fresh perspectives.
2. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** We are committed to representing a diverse range of artistic voices, perspectives, and cultural traditions that reflect the rich tapestry of our community.
3. **Community Engagement:** We believe in the power of art to foster connections and meaningful interactions among residents, fostering a sense of unity and shared ownership.
4. **Quality and Excellence:** We uphold a standard of excellence in curating, executing, and maintaining public artworks, ensuring their enduring impact and aesthetic appeal.
5. **Education and Awareness:** We strive to educate the public about the value and significance of public art, cultivating a deeper appreciation and understanding of its role in shaping our cultural landscape.
6. **Adaptability and Flexibility:** We remain open to evolving trends and emerging art forms, adapting our strategies to stay relevant and responsive to changing artistic and community needs.