



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 7:15 p.m.
City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 2nd Floor
505 Butler Place
Park Ridge, Illinois

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Alice Boghosian, Natalie Bontumasi, L.D. Buschmann, Richard DuSold, Felicia Lahart. Aggie Stempniak, staff.

Absent: Judy Brady and Thomas Chisari

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Buschmann moved, seconded by Ms. Lahart, to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed. Mr. DuSold did not vote due to being absent.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Follow up on Temporary Public Art Displays Policy

The Commission reviewed the policy drafted August 2009 and suggested consideration be given to the following:

1. Removing reference to private property in establishing the policy.
2. Policy Statement #1: Only one temporary art display will be allowed at any one time. Remove per season or.
3. Policy Statement #2: Allowing display of temporary art on City Commons in a very limited fashion in light of library programming and in accordance with a map to be submitted by the library indicating where it would be permissible.
4. Policy Statement #8: Add possible cost for restoration of the site to other costs noted.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Post Office Mural

Ms. Stempniak reported there is some interest in restoring a post office mural in the possession of the Library as part of the City Centennial celebration (May 24, 2010 to May 2011), and the Mayor, who could not be here tonight, was hoping the Public Art Commission would take this on as a special project and raise funds for the restoration.

Paul Adlaf of the Historical Society was present to give the history of the mural called "Indians Cede the Land" (1940) by George Melville Smith. It hung in the (old) post office until 1971 and was part of "New Deal" art projects. It was rescued by Paul Carlson, a history teacher at Maine East High School, and later (upon his death) was given to the Library. Mr. DuSold noted it is an important part of our history and a particular period of art in our history.

Angela Berger of the Library staff shared a proposal the Library received for restoring the mural from PARMA. Cost would be \$38,000. The Library applied for three grants. It received \$1,000 from Landmarks Illinois which was matched by the Friends of the Library. The

National Endowment for the Humanities turned the Library down and an application to the National Endowment for the Arts (for \$40,000) is still pending. Ms. Berger said the mural is currently being stabilized and stored by PARMA conservation. It would take two years to restore.

This was discussed at some length by the Commission. There was concern regarding the piece itself and whether the subject is controversial. Ms. Berger said the Library is the defender of controversial material...continuing to explain why it has various things. Basically, this is from the "New Deal" art program, and a depiction of a historical event from the early 1800s.

Mr. DuSold suggested accepting donations at the Friends of the Library book sale, and having an informational program about the mural at the Library in January to begin to lay the foundation for a fundraising effort. There was agreement with these ideas.

Interest in identifying other art that might be highlighted in the City Centennial year was also suggested. Mr. Adlaf invited members of the commission to visit the Historical Society website for preliminary research at www.pennyville.org.

B. Sculptures Installed-Plaques

Ms. Bontumasi is proceeding with creating the plaques for "Sky Trail"(black) and "Prairie Dance" (grey) with the same copper lettering as was used for "Storyteller" and "Celebration."

C. Art Sculpture Dedication October 15

This will be a festive occasion and both artists are planning to attend.

D. Spotlights on Sculptures

Ms. Stempniak reported this is being looked into for "Sky Trail" and "Prairie Dance."

V. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A. Openings on Commission/Candidates Ms. Stempniak noted there are two openings on the Commission and shared application forms. They are also available online at the City's website.

VI. CITIZENS PRESENT WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.