

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CULTURAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE Tuesday, April 12, 2016

MEETING LOCATION Pre-Session Conference Room, City Hall
1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Arena called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Arena, Vice Chair Stern, Commissioner Kaufman, Commissioner Neumann, Commissioner Pierce, Commissioner Ricciardelli, Student Representative Canel

Members Absent: Commissioner Lynch, Student Representative Cohen

Liaisons Present: Council Liaison Knobel, Staff Liaison Espiritu

Chair Arena declared that a quorum was present.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public presented for consideration or discussion.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Special Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2016

Commissioner Ricciardelli motioned to adopt the Minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting. Vice Chair Stern seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

2. 2016 Cultural Plan Goals and Objectives Group Update

Chair Arena said this would be an ongoing item on future agendas to allow commissioners to share updates on their progress toward their selected objectives. Commissioner Kaufman reported that she is working on compiling arts information for the New Resident Packets. They want to have this completed in time for the New Resident Fair on September 18. She thought they could include coupons for arts groups and copies of East on Central. They discussed providing a packet for arts classes around town or gathering giveaways from local arts businesses. Chair Arena suggested bringing the new Cultural Arts Plan to the New Resident Fair.

Commissioner Kaufman recapped the Sones de Mexico event that took place at the Library on March 6, 2016. The music of the different regions of Mexico was explored during the event using a visual map and unique instruments. The event was well attended with about 150 people, and everyone was highly engaged.

Councilman Knobel reminded the group that the next Art in City Hall display is planned for June 2016. She gave the history of the event. She explained the upcoming event is in conjunction with the Historical Society focusing on the vibrancy of Highland Park.

3. Co-Sponsorship Grants

Deputy City Manager Espiritu explained they are preparing the application for submitting the Co-Sponsorship Grant Application to the State utilizing the normal process from previous years.

4. 2015 POS Grant Award Distributions Update

Deputy City Manager Espiritu confirmed that State funding for the supplemental Purchase of Service Grants was received and is in the process of being processed and distributed to the grantees.

5. Public Walking Tour Website Presentation

Deputy City Manager Espiritu gave a presentation on the Public Art Walking Tour utilizing the City's current GIS mapping software to create an online version, instead of creating an app as previously discussed. The GIS option would be less costly and quicker to startup. Other departments within the City have already employed the GIS map features for similar projects such as construction projects and event information.

Deputy City Manager Espiritu demonstrated how this information would be accessed by the public on the City's website and answered general questions about the map features. Commissioners were impressed, stating that GIS appears to be a viable, frugal, and useful option. They decided to move forward with the project and place the link on the Commission's webpage. Council Liaison Knobel suggested that this would be good to promote on social media, especially during the times when walking tours are popular.

6. Seyfarth Walking Tour

Vice Chair Stern stated that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) wants to partner with the CAC on an event on October 9 in the Ravinia neighborhood area. She met with Dan Bagelman of Full Circle Architects and Lisa Tempkin of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to discuss event details. They envision a mid-century modern house tour, a competition of mid-century style playhouses and doghouses on display, mid-century era car display, and presentations by expert speakers and artists. They are considering Ravinia School as the location. CAC can help by promoting the event and volunteering during the event. The Commission discussed the event and was willing to support it, once it was confirmed that this event was through the City and the Historic Preservation Commission.

7. Local Arts Network Workshop – April 19

Representatives from the CAC will be in attendance at the Local Arts Network Workshop and will report back to the group regarding the event.

8. Downtown Streetscape Open House – April 16

Deputy City Manager Espiritu invited all members of the CAC to attend the Downtown Streetscape Open House at City Hall on April 16. It was noted that the information would be posted on the City's website after the event for the public to review. Feedback is welcome.

9. Antelope Sculpture Restoration

Deputy City Manager Espiritu explained that he got an email from a resident reporting that the sculpture is rusting. Chair Arena recommended first checking the warranty on the recent restoration work and reporting back to the Commission.

10. Inclusion of local artwork in McDonalds restaurant (1988 First Street) Update

Commissioner Kaufman reported that McDonald's has begun renovations, which should be complete in July. They will have two 6-foot areas available to display art. She recommended local artists, institutions, and schools for him to contact. The group voiced concerns about the security of the art in such an open venue and discussed possible solutions. Councilwoman Knobel confirmed that the art would be McDonald's responsibility and the CAC is merely helping coordinate with artists.

11. Billy Corgan Presents Update

Vice Chair Stern reported that the Billy Corgan Presents initiative will be postponed to 2017 due to communication difficulties and logistical details.

12. Musically Human Theatre Update

Deputy City Manager Espiritu reported that the lease agreement with Musically Human Theatre is in the works. The process has been moving slowly because the troupe is still finalizing their business documents and insurance information. Councilman Knobel explained that the lease could be brought back to the City Council if it is sitting vacant for too long.

13. Discussion on *Art Is Alive in Highland Park* Community Art Contest in December

Commissioner Neumann reported that she has begun coordinating with Gabrielle Rousso of The Art Center for the Art is Alive contest. Mrs. Rousso requested that she spearhead the entry form since the event is being held at her venue. They will be holding a meeting to go over the entry details. A general overview of the contest history, contestants, and rules was discussed by the group.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Arena reminded the group to file their Economic Interest forms.

Councilman Knobel explained that she met with John Levy, new President of Highland Park Bank & Trust. He would like to be more involved in the community and are looking for ideas. If anyone would like to reach out, contact Councilman Knobel for his contact information.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kaufman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion; the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.