

ERIE COUNTY ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

General Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

The Arts in Public Places General Committee Meeting was held on August 20, 2024 at Artists Group Gallery, One Linwood Ave, Buffalo NY, 14209 and by video conference, in accordance with NYS Open Meetings Law. A quorum was present as indicated:

Members:

Alexa Wajed
Susan O'Connor Baird
Bernice Radle
Donald Siuta
Edreys Wajed

Ex-Officio Members:

Sean Mulligan, Designee for Chair of the Erie County Legislature (via Webex)

Other Attendees:

Thomas E. Baines, Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development
Monica Boutin, Project Coordinator

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum: The first meeting of the Arts in Public Places Committee was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Baines at 12:10 PM, roll call was taken by Mr. Baines and a quorum was declared present.
2. Approval of Draft Minutes – None (initial meeting)
3. Nomination / Election of Officers:
 - Mr. Siuta and Ms. Wajed expressed interest in the Chairperson position. No members expressed interest in the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Siuta and Ms. Wajed agreed that the member who attains fewer votes for Chair would serve as Vice Chair.
 - Ms. Wajed and Mr. Siuta each addressed the committee, describing their professional backgrounds and vision for the committee.
 - Ms. O'Connor Baird made a motion, seconded by Ms. Radle, to nominate Ms. Wajed and Mr. Siuta for Chair and subsequently Vice Chair. Motion carried for proposed nominations.

- Members voted anonymously with a final tally of 4 votes for Ms. Wajed and 1 vote for Mr. Siuta. Upon motion of Ms. O'Connor Baird, and seconded by Ms. Radle, the committee approved the results of the election making Ms. Wajed Chair and Mr. Siuta Vice Chair.
 - Monica Boutin of the Department of Environment and Planning is designated Secretary.
4. Approval of Draft Bylaws:
- Mr. Siuta raised a question regarding feasibility of meeting dates and deadlines noted within Article 6, Section 5 of the draft bylaws. Dates and deadlines listed reflect 2023 Local Law #4. Discussion ensued.
 - Ms. Radle raised a question of term limits for Chair and Vice Chair and proposed that the bylaws be amended to note that Chair and Vice Chair may serve *no* more than two consecutive (one-year) terms.
 - Ms. Radle suggested Article 3, Section 2 professional requirements be expanded, but this section is also taken directly from the 2023 Local Law #4.
 - Mr. Siuta proposed that the Committee adopt a Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policy. Mr. Baines noted that the Department of Environment and Planning would send out Erie County's standard Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policy for the Committee to review. The Committee agreed that members and their immediate family should be barred from responding to RFPs or participating in art submissions in order to avoid a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest.
 - Ms. O'Connor Baird made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wajed, to adopt the bylaws as amended. Motion carried.
5. Upcoming Deadlines:
- Mr. Baines discussed the need to begin researching Master Public Art Plans to meet upcoming deadlines. Discussion ensued regarding estimated funds available, the ability to rollover funds from one budget year to the next, and the benefits and drawbacks of siting public art on private property.
 - Ms. Radle and Ms. Wajed suggested an internal deadline of February 1st for a first draft of the master plan to ensure the committee meets the March 1st requirement stipulated in the law.
6. Frequency of Meetings: Upcoming Meetings are scheduled as follows:
- September 25th at 11AM at Eat Off Art, Tri-Main Bldg, 2495 Main St. Suite 441, Buffalo NY 14214
 - October 9th at 12PM at Artist Group Gallery, 1 Linwood Ave, Buffalo NY 14209
 - October 24th at 11AM at the Buffalo AKG (TENTATIVE, needs confirmation)
 - November 19th at 12PM at Eat Off Art, Tri-Main Bldg, 2495 Main St. Suite 441, Buffalo NY 14214 (TENTATIVE, needs confirmation)
7. Unfinished Business – None (initial meeting)
8. New Business

- Members will research Public Art Plans before Sept. 25 meeting, Ms. Boutin will work with Erie County DPW and Erie County Parks to attain a list of potential county sites for public art.
- Mr. Mulligan noted that the law stipulates that the Committee must have a public hearing on the plan before the plan is approved by the Legislature. Mr. Mulligan will provide tentative legislative calendar for the next meeting.

9. Resolutions – None

10. Adjournment

- Upon motion made by Ms. O'Connor Baird, and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.