DRAFT

CRYSTAL LAKE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025
HELD AT THE CRYSTAL LAKE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Katie Cowlin at 8:09 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Nancy Merkling, David Bradburn, Joy Neal, Mike Littrell, Brynn Jeffries, and Kathy Hajdrowski were present.

Mayor Haig Haleblian, Director of Community Development Kathryn Cowlin, Assistant City Planner Darrell Moore, and Deputy City Manager Nick Hammonds were present.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2025 PUBIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

Ms. Merkling made a motion to approve the November 12, 2025 Public Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Hajdrowski seconded the motion. On roll call, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

James Padron, owner of the Valore art gallery in Downtown Crystal Lake, introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Padron discussed the first art show held from May to July 2025. He discussed future plans for additional art shows, studio spaces, adding a café to their current space, and providing an avenue for local artists to showcase their work. Ms. Jeffries stated that the Commission welcomes any ideas for public art and ways for the Commission to collaborate with artists. Mr. Padron thanked the Commission for allowing him to join and exited the meeting.

WATER'S EDGE PUBLIC PARK – MURAL PANELS CALL FOR ARTISTS

Mr. Moore introduced the art submissions received for the Water's Edge Mural Panels. He stated that the Commission elected to choose one artists for the displays. There are four panels at the park, and some artists submitted more than four pieces of artwork. He stated there are 17 artists who submitted art in response to the call for artists.

Ms. Merkling asked if the Commission will be following up with the artists who were not selected. She stated that it is helpful to provide feedback to the artists, and she offered to reach out on the Commission's behalf. She stated that she wants the artists to be encouraged to submit artwork in the future.

Mayor Haleblian inquired about the material being used for the art displays. Mr. Moore confirmed that vinyl would be used. This will allow for artwork to be swapped out in the future.

The Commission reviewed all submittals, with each submittal identified only by a number. Each Commissioner provided their top three submissions and provided feedback to explain their reasoning for their choice. Based on this initial discussion, the Commission narrowed the selections to three artists. From the narrowed selection, the Commission agreed on the top two selections. A final vote was held,

and submission #5 from Gabriel Karagianis was chosen. Ms. Jeffries made a motion to approve the selected artist and artwork. Ms. Hajdrowski seconded. On voice vote, all members voted aye.

Ms. Neal asked if Water's Edge is sponsoring the artwork. Ms. Cowlin confirmed that the association is paying for the artwork. Ms. Neal asked if Water's Edge has a say in the art selection. Ms. Cowlin confirmed that the Arts Commission is making the final selection.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Neal discussed the Downtown Crystal Lake subcommittee for art shows and events. Ms. Neal stated that the subcommittee will be focused on long-term goal planning and hosting arts events.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jeffries made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Merkling seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.