

**Arts Commission  
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

1

1 The meeting of the Arts Commission of the City of Onalaska was called to order at 4:39 p.m. on  
2 Tuesday, February 18, 2020. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and posted at  
3 City Hall.

4  
5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mayor Kim Smith, Ald. Jim Olson,  
6 Dani McAlister, Deb Carlson, LuAnn Roth

7  
8 Also Present: Onalaska High School student Claudia Delgado (advisory)

9  
10 Excused Absences: Linda Lyche, Joyce Dively

11  
12 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s)**

13  
14 Motion by Mayor K. Smith, second by Deb, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as  
15 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

16  
17 On voice vote, motion carried.

18  
19 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

20  
21 Dani called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion of the  
22 meeting.

23  
24 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

25  
26 **Item 4 – Comments on Center 90**

27  
28 Dani and LuAnn said they both had visited Center 90, and LuAnn told commission members she  
29 had taken photographs. LuAnn also said there is a door that accesses a hallway that leads to the  
30 restrooms and two businesses. LuAnn said that while there is wall that can accommodate a  
31 display case, she also questioned the amount of traffic to that location. LuAnn told commission  
32 members she believes the library would be a more suitable venue for an art display.

33  
34 Deb said that perhaps an outside art display, such as a painted fish, would be more visible and  
35 attract more traffic.

36  
37 Mayor K. Smith said she agrees that having a display inside Center 90 where there is little foot  
38 traffic is probably not ideal, and she told commission members she likes the idea of having a  
39 display in the first-floor hallway at City Hall or the library. Mayor K. Smith noted nearly 10,000  
40 individuals patronize the library on a monthly basis. Mayor K. Smith said Planning Manager  
41 Katie Aspenson had looked for areas with sufficient easements on which to place outdoor art,  
42 and she told commission members there is no such area around Center 90 as there is now less

Reviewed 2/25/2020 by LuAnn Roth

**Arts Commission  
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

2

43 space due to the expanded roadway. However, Mayor K. Smith also said Hilltopper Heights  
44 Park, which is located at Sand Lake Road and Well Street, has city-owned greenspace located  
45 near Sand Lake Road on which artwork could be placed. Mayor K. Smith told commission  
46 members Katie also had identified the following locations on which artwork possibly could be  
47 placed:

48

- 49 • There is 1,700 square feet of city-owned property located in the Mayfair Addition where  
50 County Road PH and PH West join together. Mayor K. Smith noted she resides in this  
51 addition and suggested that perhaps a piece of artwork could complement the Mayfair  
52 Addition sign in that area.
- 53 • There is what appears to be city-owned right-of-way at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
54 Southwest, which is across from the Kwik Trip on State Trunk Highway 35. Any access  
55 to this site would need to occur from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Southwest.

56

57 Mayor K. Smith suggested that an item called “Outdoor Art Locations” be placed on the next  
58 meeting agenda.

59

60 Claudia suggested painting a mural if there is a building available.

61

62 **Item 5 – Discussion on finding local artists for a studio tour/contacting art teachers**

63

64 LuAnn told commission members she had contacted the art teacher at Onalaska Middle School  
65 and said the teacher is always looking for locations at which to display students’ artwork.

66

67 Dani said students’ artwork could be displayed in cases at the library.

68

69 LuAnn suggested rotating artwork monthly and having themes.

70

71 Claudia suggested having a featured artist.

72

73 Mayor K. Smith suggested having a featured artist of the month from both Onalaska Middle  
74 School and Onalaska High School.

75

76 LuAnn suggested to Claudia that she speak with the Onalaska High School art teachers about  
77 how art should be selected.

78

79 Claudia noted there is an art show for Onalaska High School students at the end of the school  
80 year at the library and suggested promoting it.

81

82 Mayor K. Smith suggested allowing members of the Art Club at Onalaska High School to set up  
83 the space at the library as they please. Mayor K. Smith suggested having an “Art Display  
84 Management” item on the next meeting agenda.

Reviewed 2/25/2020 by LuAnn Roth

85

86 **Item 6 – Discuss transformer wrapped art**

87

88 Deb told commission members she had spoken with Mike Herro of Xcel Energy about  
89 transformer art (wrapped box or painted) and said it is not possible at this time. Deb told  
90 commission members the transformers must be easily identified by emergency crews and Xcel  
91 Energy staff, and art would camouflage them. Deb noted there are protrusions that come out of  
92 the box and said they could be dangerous if camouflaged by artwork. Deb said that while she  
93 thought she had seen such artwork, “maybe they weren’t electrical boxes.” Deb said Mike was  
94 aware that Explore La Crosse members had examined a different location with a company, and  
95 she told commission members Mike had asked that “we let it lie [because] it is not possible at  
96 this point in time.”

97

98 Ald. Olson noted he must withdraw a certain amount from his 401k at the end of every year and  
99 told commission members he is willing to make a donation at the end of 2020 to the Arts  
100 Commission.

101

102 Mayor K. Smith said she will attempt to ask a representative from Centering Onalaska to attend  
103 the next meeting. Mayor K. Smith also said a citizen has expressed an interest in serving on the  
104 Arts Commission.

105

106 **Adjournment**

107

108 Motion by Mayor K. Smith, second by LuAnn, to adjourn at 5:02 p.m.

109

110 On voice vote, motion carried.

111

112

113 Recorded by:

114

115 Kirk Bey