



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Majestic Room, Five Flags Civic Center, 450 Main St., Dubuque, IA 52001
(virtual attendance offered via GoToMeeting)

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: Nicholas Halder, Ryan Decker, Gina Siegert, Tyler Daugherty (attending virtually), Paula Neuhaus, Ali Levasseur, Susan Riedel (arrived 3:36 PM)

Staff Present: Jennifer Petersen-Brant, Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator

Public Present: Tom Robbins of UD Heritage Center, Jean Tucker of Dubuque Symphony

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Levasseur at 3:34 PM following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Review of Minutes

Motioned to approve minutes of May 23, 2021 and June 15, 2021 meetings with corrections by Halder, seconded by Riedel. Commissioners Halder, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, Neuhaus, Levasseur, Riedel voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Reports from Master Plan Working Groups

Updates provided verbally by Staff as follows:

Accessibility, Engagement & Inclusion (AEI) - Jenni Petersen-Brant and Jason Neises have built out an action plan to actively engage volunteers in efforts related to World Café events in support of Dubuque Renaissance Project and monthly DEI training sessions for arts and culture organizations. Levasseur suggested Jubecks as possible partner in World Café events.

Creative Economy: Focused on finalizing WeCreateDBQ logo. Group is reviewing Working Groups strategies and identifying current community projects that aligns with those strategies to then offer support to in-progress efforts as opposed to starting something new.

Branding & Communications: Recent meeting focused on debrief from May 27 of large committee meeting to develop project brief for sector-wide communications campaign. Next large committee meeting is June 29. Plan to host August in-person meeting to thank committee members, recap input put forward, and then take next steps in putting out an RFP.

Public Art and Capacity & Investment: On hold due to staffing capacity and lack of volunteer leadership.

Discussion followed on how to assist Staff in working group efforts, specifically in moving draft of Public Art Policy forward. Will be discussed more fully during Commission's upcoming strategic planning work.

Status Reports from Staff

Creative Resiliency Grant Program: Opportunity is open and currently accepting applications. Informational webinar held during Friday Arts & Culture check-in on June 11, 2021.

Art on the River: Staff provided an overview of activities planned and along with an update that City Council approved the inclusion of an 11th sculpture. Decker volunteered to followup with Heritage Works on their proposed partnership. One of original recommendations was not able for exhibit and alternate has been secured. Date for opening reception is Friday, August 6 from 5-7 PM.

Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity Study VI: City Manager concurred with Commission's recommendation to participate in study and use anticipated FY21 surplus to fund \$3,000 study fee. City Council approved recommendation. Staff to proceed accordingly.

Other / Intern Update: Commissioner Riedel and Staff interviewed candidates and provided a recommendation to Economic Development Director. Recommendation awaiting Human Resources and City Manager approval. Start date unknown at this time.

Old Business

Appointments to open Commission seats: The following applicants have been appointed by City Council to serve on the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission through June 30, 2024:

- Noelle Chesney – Business Professional Living or Working Outside Cultural District
- Tom Robbins - At Large
- Paula Neuhaus (reappointed) – Business Professional Living or Working with Cultural District.

New Commissioners will be made aware of Art Train training program being offered through Springboard for the Arts

Strategic planning with Jan Powers: Strategic planning will take place on Tuesday, September 7 and Monday, September 20 from 3:30-5:30 PM. Location to be determined. Additional planning from Chair and Co-Chair needed in collaboration with Staff.

Upcoming Special Meeting for review of grant funding recommendations: Staff requested that special meeting set for Tuesday, July 6 be moved to Tuesday, July 13 to accommodate recruitment of volunteers for review panel. Motion by Decker, seconded by Siegert to reschedule Grant Review Special Meeting to Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Commissioners Halder, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, Neuhaus, Levasseur, Riedel voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Other: Discussion by Commission regarding former MediaCom Arts & Culture Grant program and prior consideration of ImOn Communications as potential partner for a new program. ImOn contact has left role with company; new approach and continued follow up needed.

New Business

Commission publicly thanked outgoing Commissioners Gina Siegert and Tyler Daugherty for their past service on the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. The time and expertise they have brought to the Commission's work is greatly appreciated.

Public Comment

Tom Robbins commented that he is looking forward to joining and serving on the Commission.

Current Events Reporting from Commissioners

- Rising Star Auditions for Mini-Musicals which will start second weekend in July.
- Grand is looking forward for Brigadoon.
- Bell Tower looking forward to “Hate Mail”.
- Decker is reading scripts for Loras Players.
- DBQ Cty Fine Arts Society: Plein Air Brush Strokes on schedule for end of Sept / beginning of October. DubuqueFest to be held Aug 7 and 8 in Washington Park. Writers Guild book launch to be held Aug 6; may be held in Alliant Energy Amphitheater in conjunction with Art on the River reception.
- Travel Dubuque is preparing for Field of Dreams events 2nd weekend of August with the addition of a nationally televised JR baseball game the Friday before. Riedel was interviewed for a pregame show documentary to be aired prior to the game Thursday, August 12. Activities begin Wednesday, August 11 with kid's activities for free and more.
- Jenni on vacation from August 12 – 22nd.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Siegert. Meeting adjourned at 4:26PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 3:30PM

Respectfully submitted:

Jenni Petersen-Brant
Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on July 27, 2021.

Paula Neuhaus
Witnessed By: Paula Neuhaus (Oct 29, 2021 10:21 CDT) (signature)
Paula Neuhaus (printed)
Chair (officer position)

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Final Audit Report

2021-10-29

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