



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (A&CA) MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 24 May 2022

TIME: 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Rm. 2, Multicultural Family Center, The Ruby Sutton Building, 1157 Central Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001

Commissioners Present: Paula NEUHAUS (chair); Nicholas HALDER (vice-chair); Ryan DECKER (recorder); Noelle CHESNEY; Ali LEVASSEUR (attending electronically); Thomas ROBBINS.

Commissioners Excused: Sue RIEDEL.

Staff Present: Jenni PETERSEN-BRANT (coordinator); Mike WILLIAMS (intern).

Neuhaus called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:33 PM.

Review of Minutes

Minor grammatical change proposed for the 26 April 2022 minutes. Approval of minutes with proposed change motioned by Halder, seconded by Chesney. Vote: Unanimously affirmed.

Motion carries.

Taskforce & Working Group Reports

Petersen-Brant provided written updates from active Master Plan Working Groups (see appendix). Petersen-Brant and Williams noted particularly:

1. **Accessibility, Engagement & Inclusion (AEI):** Creative Cafés have been incredibly successful and steadily growing; program may eventually require expanded A&CA and/or external funding; and
2. **Branding & Communications (B&C):** “AllTogether” has been selected as the branding campaign with “Creative | Community | Culture” as the tagline.

Acceptance of reports to minutes appendix motioned by Decker, seconded by Robbins. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Status Reports

Petersen-Brant provided written and oral progress updates of A&CA programs, grants and administrative business. Highlights included:

1. **A&CA Grant Applications** (Operations Support, Special Projects, and GARE Regrants) have been received and the review process is currently underway but delayed;

2. **Arts & Economic Prosperity Study** initiated the survey process, and discussed potential hardcopy and digital survey methods for upcoming events; and
3. **Position Updates:** The Communications/Grant Administrative Assistant position has been posted by the City; the AmeriCorps Teen Creative Engagement Specialist position has been filled.

Acceptance of status reports to minutes appendix motioned by Halder, seconded by Decker. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Old Business

1. **Strategic Plan** initiation to begin shortly with Priority 1; no updates at this time.
2. **Adjusting Length of Commissioner Terms** will require an amendment to current ordinance. Assistant City Clerk Trish Gleason provided proposed language for amendment which was reviewed and discussed by Commission; expect this item to reappear in the July agenda after new and / or returning Commissioners are sworn in.

New Business:

Art on the River 2022-23 (AotR) juried selections and alternates were shared with, and discussed by the Commissioners. Endorsement of selections and continuance of exhibit and opening event planning by Staff and AotR Committee by Decker, seconded by Chesney. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

Public Comment/Correspondence

Staff shared correspondence via the City Manager's office from Kelly Hillard, out-of-town visitor, commanding Dubuque's clean streets and beautifully painted buildings.

Upcoming Events / Community Engagement

Commissioners reported on upcoming events and community engagement activities:

1. **Distinctly Dubuque** received representation of A&CA, The Grand Opera House, and Dubuque Humane Society by Petersen-Brant, Halder, and Chesney, respectively;
2. **City Life Program** to receive A&CA representation by Petersen-Brant; and
3. **Public Information Office** (PIO, City of Dubuque) featured A&CA in their video congratulations to local high school and college graduates with participation from Levasseur; and
4. **Creative & Expressive Arts** (arts as therapy) foundational training and Mental Health for the Arts Certification will be completed by Decker in June with hopes to provide related community programming.

Adjournment motioned by Robbins, seconded by Decker at 4:44 PM. Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carried.***

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 at 3:30 PM, Multicultural Family Center

Respectfully submitted:

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

These minutes were passed and approved on Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

Witnessed By: Nick Halder _____ (signature)
Nick Halder (printed)
Vice-Chairperson (officer position)

Minutes_Arts Commission-Regular Meeting_05.24.2022_approved

Final Audit Report

2022-07-12

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