



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION (A&CA) MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023

**TIME:** 3:30 PM

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

### **Regular Meeting**

**Commissioners Present:** Nicholas HALDER (chair); Tom ROBBINS (vice-chair); Noelle CHESNEY; Sue RIEDEL; Paula NEUHAUS; Doug DONALD; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL (recorder)

Staff Present: Jill CONNORS (coordinator); Laura MERRICK (Communications and Grant Administration Assistant)

### **Commissioners Absent:**

HALDER called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:36 PM.

### **Roll Call & Review of Minutes**

Roll call conducted followed by approval of 25 April 2023 minutes with correction. NEUHAUS moved to approve the minutes RIEDEL seconded. Vote: Unanimously approved. ***Motion carries.***

### **Staff Status Reports**

MERRICK reported that the National Endowment Round 1 Awards are being processed. Created Empowerment Round 2 will be open soon.

CONNORS reported that Bonnie Spurling will start July 5<sup>th</sup> as the new Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager position.

### **Master Plan Working Group Updates**

None to report.

## **Old Business**

- a. Strategic Plan Reporting - Nothing to report.
- b. Operating Support and Special Projects Funding Strategies for FY24  
Discussion took place regarding the funding strategy for the FY24 Special Projects program. Commissioners recommended that staff create a funding strategy that fully funds eligible applicants starting with the highest score funding downward until funds are depleted.

Discussion then took place regarding the funding strategy for the FY24 Operating Support program. Commissioners recommended that staff use the approved FY23 funding strategy as a basis for this year's recommendation.

## **New Business**

- a. 2023-24 Art on the River Exhibition  
CONNORS reported there were 32 submissions and there is room for 11 on the Riverwalk which was presented to Commissioners. Placement of sculptures will be decided soon. Commissioners appreciated the time the jurors put in to decide the sculptures. DONALD moved to accept what the jury recommended for the 11 sculptures for the 2023-24 Art of the River Exhibition seconded by REIDEL. Vote: Unanimously approved. ***Motion carries.***

Discussion of Opening Reception for the Art of the River Exhibition-an award will be given to the most popular sculpture. Other community members will be part of the ceremony per committee recommendations. ROBBINS reported the Tri-State Wind Symphony will be performing at the Alliant Amphitheatre that evening.

## **Public Comment / Correspondence**

Ali LEVASSEUR-Community artist wondered if there could be a continued partnership between Art on the River and Dubuque Fest.

## **Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners**

DONALD shared the play Sincerity will open on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Five Flags Center. June 10 and 11 DONALD will be performing as Mark Twain in Sheboygan, WI.

NEUHAUS reported she has been engaged in the Iowa Arts grant process.

CHESNEY shared the Dubuque Humane Society will be hosting a birthday celebration on June 3.

Adjournment motioned by ROBBINS seconded by CHESNEY at 5:00 PM Vote: Unanimously affirmed. ***Motion carries.***

**Next meeting(s):** Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Respectfully submitted:  
Jill Connors  
Economic Development Director, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on June 27, 2023.

Witnessed By: *Nick Halder* (signature)  
Nick Halder (printed)  
Chair (officer position)