



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

TIME: 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Multicultural Family Center, [1157 Central Ave](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1157+Central+Ave,+Dubuque,+IA+52001/@41.61711,-91.4601,17z), Dubuque, IA 52001

Regular Meeting

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Bonnie SPURLING (Arts and Cultural Affairs Manager); Jill CONNORS (Economic Development Director); Laura MERRICK (Communications and Grant Administration Assistant)

Public Present: None

HALDER called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:39 PM.

Roll Call & Review of Minutes

Roll call conducted followed by approval of 27 June 2023 minutes. HALDER moved to approve with corrections seconded by RIEDEL. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

Officer Appointments

RIEDEL nominated HALDER to stay in the position as president for another year. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

NEUHAUS nominated CHESNEY as Vice Chair. CHESNEY accepted the nomination. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

CHESNEY nominated NEUHAUS as recorder.

Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

Status Reports Staff

SPURLING shared installation of the Art on the River is ongoing and will be ready for the August 4th event.

Master Plan Working Group Updates

None to report.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Reporting – NEUHAUS shared the grant sub-committee has been working on researching an assessment survey tool that will go to staff, peer reviewers, and grant recipients to seek information on what they need for financial support. CONNORS recommended the sub-committee give an update on this work at the City Council meeting on August 21.

New Business

Reallocation of NEA-ARPA funds to Creative Empowerment Round 2 discussion: MERRICK stated as of July 14 Round 2 had 7 submissions. All were eligible and asked for full funding. Reviewers will wrap on August 8th. Round 1 has been fully funded with a \$7,119 balance to fund Round 2 applicants. MERRICK recommended the funds for Round 2. REIDEL moved to take MERRICK's recommendation, seconded by NEUHAUS. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

Reallocation of declined FY24 Special Projects grant award: MERRICK shared one recipient was unable to accept an award of \$940.00 from Special Projects grant. REIDEL recommended money be deferred until we can allocate it to something else. ROBBINS seconded the motion to move funds to reserve. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

DONALD shared that we may want to discuss a policy in the future on AI on how it affects creativity when writing for grant opportunities.

Public Comment/Correspondence

MERRICK shared the Commission received a thank you from the Dubuque Arts Council for receiving the Operating Support and Special Grants funding.

Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

ROBBINS shared a flier on the upcoming season at the University of Dubuque Heritage Center.

CONNORS shared Art on the River event is August 4th.

Adjournment motioned by DONALD seconded by CHESNEY at 4:23 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 3:30 PM, Multicultural Family Center

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie Spurling
Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on August 22, 2023

Witnessed By: *Nick Halder* (Signature)
Nick Halder (Printed)
Chair (Officer Position)