



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

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**DATE:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023

**TIME:** 3:34 PM

**LOCATION:** Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001

### **Regular Meeting**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** ; Tom ROBBINS; Doug DONALD

**Staff Present:** Bonnie SPURLING (Arts and Cultural Affairs Manager); Mike WILLIAMS (Intern)

**Public Present:** None

HALDER called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:34 PM.

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

Roll call conducted followed by approval of August 22, 2023, minutes with edits to Shirley Davis-Orwoll and Doug Donald's names.

NEUHAUS moved to approve with corrections seconded by DAVIS-ORWOLL. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. **Motion carries.***

### **Appointment / Replacement of Recorder / Secretary Position**

NEUHAUS nominated herself for the role of Recorder / Secretary, without the responsibility of taking minutes during Arts & Culture Advisory Commission meetings.

RIEDEL gave explanation to commission on Recorder / Secretary role and seconds this motion.

Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries*

### **Status Reports Staff**

SPURLING updated commission that staff member Laura Merrick's contract with the City of Dubuque was extended until October 12, 2023.

SPURLING also announced she will be meeting with local business Gigantic 9/27/23 to receive updates and discuss Iowa Tourism grant which has funded the "All Together" campaign / website which Gigantic has been paid to create.

SPURLING advised that the funds remaining from the Gare Grant will be used to continue the Creative Cafe's beginning in January.

Lastly, SPURLING discussed Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative grant money, and is pleased with securing nine out of 10 murals to be painted at local bus stops for Art en Route. Currently waiting on artist contracts and good weather before painting can begin.

### **Updates From Master Plan Working Groups**

HALDER advised groups have not met in some time and there is nothing to report.

### **Old Business – Strategic Plan Reporting**

HALDER updates commission on Masterplan priority # 2 and requested the commissions permission and assistance to pause this priority, and pivot to assist SPURLING with Achievement reporting of 101 goals and data captured over the past 7 years.

HALDER asked if any commissioners are willing to meet with SPURLING to discuss this further before she must present it to City Council.

CHESNEY, NEUHAUS, and WILLIAMS offered time to meet.

RIEDEL suggested the re-start of Friday Zoom calls with SPURLING to get to know each of the Arts organizations and members. SPURLING agreed with this idea and planned to create topics of discussion to add value to these calls.

HALDER discussed October being National Arts & Humanities month and advised of City of Dubuque proclamation needed. SPURLING advised she will reach out to Jill Connors for proclamation assistance.

WILLIAMS advised that he will not be participating in 31 Day Social Media Challenge this year as American's for the Arts has not announced a social media challenge for this year.

### **New Business – Grants Survey Sub Committee Recommendations**

NEUHAUS provided a robust review and presented feedback and raw data from surveys collected.

NEUHAUS reported that inconsistencies with grant awards is problematic, and can be unfair to smaller organizations who do not have same grant capacity.

In regards to the Operating Support Grant, NEUHAUS reported idea to reduce to max award amount to 4% (from 6%) of total operating budget, or \$20,000 (from \$30,000).

NEUHAUS also suggested edits to simplify grant rubrics and reporting.

For Special Projects Grant, NEUHAUS shared interest for a Capacity Grant, and offered the idea of rotating a Capacity Grant and Special Projects Grant annually.

SPURLING suggested commission waits to vote on changes to grant programs until next meeting when all commissioners are available.

### **Public Comment/Correspondence**

None

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

SPURLING shares "Thank You" letters from Dubuque Chorale and Bell Tower Theatre for funding their organizations with NEA Grant money.

WILLIAMS shared that he will be opening a physical gallery location for his "aerial art" and invited all commissioners to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm at 129 Main Street.

Adjournment motioned by RIEDEL seconded by CHESNEY at **4:50 PM**.

**Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 3:30 PM at the Multicultural Family Center**

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie Spurling

Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_ October 24, 2023

Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_ *Nick Halder* (signature)

Nick Halder (printed)

Chair (officer position)