



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

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**DATE:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024

**TIME:** 3:34 PM

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

### **Regular Meeting**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

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

**Public Present:** Kara MURPHY (Dubuque Symphony Orchestra), Ali LEVASSEUR  
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 was skipped due to familiarity between Commissioners present, City staff and public present at the time of roll call.

ROBBINS moved to approve minutes from January 23, 2024, with corrections provided by SPURLING and HALDER, seconded by NEUHAUS. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed.* **Motion carries.**

### **Status Reports from Staff**

SPURLING reports for Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.

Art on the River 24 – 25 applications close on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. 19 applications have been submitted so far.

City Council has approved changes made to Operating Support Grant, which opens March 1.

AllTogether Dubuque will be launched at the upcoming Creatives Cafe. Event to take place at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium from 6 – 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Laura Merrick has been hired back on by the City of Dubuque's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs to assist with the completion of NEA grant.

**Updates From Master Plan Working Groups**

None

**Old Business – Commission Strategic Plan Goals – Reporting and Discussion**

NEUHAUS reported that work had begun on the new Capacity Building Grant. This new funding program will rotate bi-annually with the Special Projects Grant.

Grant subcommittee has an upcoming meeting March 6, 2024.

**Old Business – Other**

HALDER requests that a meeting be setup with Jill Connors and SPURLING to understand how to communicate with the City of Dubuque and City Council as a Commissioner properly and effectively.

**New Business – Operating Support Grant Updates for Review and Acceptance**

ROBBINS shares a new grant opportunity through NEA available and inquires if Committee will be keeping an eye out for opportunities to apply for grant funding.

NEUHAUS reminds the Committee that the City of Dubuque's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs will not be actively pursuing any grant funding for the first year of SPURLINGS employment.

**Public Comment/Correspondence**

MURPHY thanks the commission for the continued work and support they provide to the Arts and culture in Dubuque and advises the local Arts must continue to advocate for themselves as funding at State and Federal level will be more competitive.

**Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners**

Creatives Cafe. Event to take place at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium from 6 – 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Adjournment motioned by DONALD seconded by RIEDEL at 4:12 PM.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, March 26, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ March 26, 2023

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