



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

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 1st, 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 ad 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)