



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024

**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; Tom ROBBINS; Doug DONALD; Sue RIEDEL

**Commissioners Absent:** None

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

**Public Present:** Ali LEVASSEUR (Julien Dubuque Film Festival, DubuqueFest);

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.

CHESNEY moved to approve minutes from May 28, 2024, seconded by DAVIS-ORWOLL. Vote: *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

### Status Reports from Staff

SPURLING reports for Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs:

The new Capacity Building Grant was worked on with Grants sub-committee and tightened up, which left three organizations ineligible. Bonnie brought this issue to the attention of her direct supervisor, Jill Connors, who then brought the issue to her supervisor, City Manager, Mike Van Milligen. Spurling also contacted Iowa Arts Council to gain insight on the situation. Decision made between all parties that organizations would be ineligible this year.

Discussion continued.

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

**None**

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

**None**

### **New Business – Funding Strategies for Operating Support & Capacity Building Grant**

SPURLING presents Capacity Building Grant will fund seven non-profit organizations, with two organizations not receiving funding. Using rollover funds of \$2,600 to maximize grant funding.

ROBBINS moves to approve Capacity Building Grant funds with using rollover funds, DONALD seconds. *Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

SPURLING presents Operating Support Grant and advises this grant was revised with tightened eligibility, using organizations NTE codes to verify eligibility as an Arts focused organization.

With revision to grant eligibility, two non-profit organizations who applied were left ineligible.

ROBBINS moves to approve Operating Support Grant funding, CHESNEY seconds.

*Unanimously affirmed. Motion carries.*

### **Public Comment/Correspondence**

LEVASSEUR reports that she has received questions from local artists looking for more funding, and encourages Commission to search for and be aware of new grants.

LEVASSEUR suggests that for future grant funding could require applicants to obtain a certain percentage of total score in order to be funded.

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

NEUHAUS reports they attended recent Iowa Arts Council Summit along with SPURLING and is excited to share information and resources learned with community.

Also reports Dubuque is a well-liked community and inspiring to many across the state

ROBBINS reports he is the Chair of the Iowa Presenters Network and had a successful retreat in Ottumwa with 20 Arts and Culture venues across the state.

HALDER acknowledges two commissioners NEUHAUS and CHESNEY are at the end of their terms and thanks both for their dedication to the Arts and Culture Commission.

Adjournment motioned by DONALD seconded by RIEDEL at 4:31 PM.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ July 30, 2024

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