



ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

TIME: 3:37 PM

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

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: Gail CHAVENELLE; Doug DONALD; Nick HALDER (chair); Aaron HEFEL; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

Commissioners Absent: David BARBA; Franco MENCHACA;

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

Public Present: Kara Murphy

1. Call to Order / Assurance of Iowa Open Meeting Compliance

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

2. Roll Call

Roll call was skipped due to familiarity with commissioners, City staff and public present.

3. Review and Approve Minutes from January 21, 2025.

CHAVENELLE motions to accept minutes, DONALD seconds.

Vote unanimously passes. Motion passes.

4. Officer and Committee Appointments

Discussion took place about the Commission's committee appointments, decided to let new commissioners make decision of sub-committee involvement at the following commission meeting in March.

5. Status Reports from Staff for Review and Acceptance

SPURLING reports that the sculpture application deadline for Art on the River was extended by one week, from February 28th to March 7th.

Currently have 9 artist apply for a total of 18 sculptures submitted.

SPURLING also reports two upcoming grant programs which will be opening in March; the Operating Support Grant to open March 3rd and the Special Projects Grant to open March 17th.

6. Updates from Master Plan Working Groups

None

7. Old Business

None

8. Commission Strategic Plan Goals- Reporting and Discussion

9. New Business

a. Proposed Arts & Culture Advisory Commission Ordinance Changes

DONALD and DAVIS-ORWOLL provided an update about the discussions taking place about updating the Commission's ordinance. Discussion followed among the Commissioners. DONALD and DAVIS-ORWOLL will take information back to their committee to continue their work.

b. Recommendation to remove Menchaca from commission

Discussion took place with commissioners regarding commissioner Menchaca, and his third unexcused consecutive absence from a commission meeting. DONALD moves to send letter to City Council to consider his removal from the commission, CHAVENELLE seconds. Vote unanimously passes.

10. Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

HALDER reports upcoming Arts forum taking place at the River Museum on Thursday, March 6th.

11. Public Comment / Correspondence

Kara Murphy asks if any DEI initiatives within the upcoming grants will change. SPURLING reports no current changes, and City of Dubuque plans to maintain all DEI initiatives until instructed by city leadership.

12. Adjourn

Adjournment motioned by HEFEL seconded by CHAVENELLE at 5:03 PM.

Next meeting(s): Regular Meeting – March 25, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:
Bonnie Spurling
Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on March 25, 2025

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