



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: David BARBA; Mary LONEY BICHELL; Gail CHAVENELLE; Nick HALDER (chair); Jessica OCHOA; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

Commissioners Absent: Doug DONALD

Staff Present: Bonnie SPURLING (Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager)

Public Present: Ali LEVASSEUR and Ryan ARIANS

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 3:37 PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call of those present took place.

3. Officer and Committee Appointments

CHAVENELLE agreed to serve on the Art on the River Committee

4. Review and Approve Minutes from July 29, 2025.

DAVIS-ORWOLL motions to accept minutes, OCHOA seconds. No further discussion. Vote unanimously passed.

5. Status Reports from Staff for Review and Acceptance

SPURLING reported that the proposed Commission ordinance changes are still with the City's legal department for review.

SPURLING shared a recap of the opening reception for Art on the River that took place on August 1, 2025. Additionally, the third alternate sculpture, Mineral Point Spinner, was selected to take the place of Findicator Species, which was unable to be a part of this year's exhibition. Brochures have been ordered now that all of the pieces are in place.

The Creative's Café took place August 14 at the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, with 43 people in attendance. Urban Sketchers, Planted, and Centrally Rooted provided hands on activities for those in attendance. The next Creative's Café is scheduled to take place on November 13 at The Lift.

SPURLING provided an update on the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative grant and the refinishing of the original sidewalk murals. Additionally, updated contracts for the FY'26 Operating Support and Special Projects Grants have been sent and received back to SPURLING. Payments will be processed in the coming weeks to all grant awardees.

SPURLING also shared that the Annual Boards & Commission Picnic will take place from 6-8pm on September 9 at Eagle Point Park.

6. Updates from Master Plan Working Groups

Nothing new to report currently.

7. Old Business

a. Commission Strategic Plan Goals- Reporting and Discussion

Nothing new to report currently.

8. New Business

Nothing new to report currently.

9. Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

Nothing new to report currently.

10. Public Comment

LEVASSEUR shared that Julien Dubuque International Film Festival Halloween parade will take place Saturday, October 18 at 7pm.

11. Adjourn

Adjournment motioned by CHAVENELLE seconded by DAVIS-ORWOLL at 4:17PM.

Next meeting(s): Regular Meeting – September 30, 2025.

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

These minutes were passed and approved on _____, 2025

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