

MINUTES  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 26, 2011  
Lacy Board Room  
Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
360 W. 11th St., Dubuque, IA

**Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.**

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Paul Hemmer, Julie Steffen, Marina O'Rourke, and Geri Shafer.

Absent: Sue Riedel.

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jessica Kurt

**Approval of Minutes** of March 22, 2011. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hemmer to approve the minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Determine Funding Requests for Arts and Cultural Operating Support Grants.**

In response to commissioners' questions from the previous meeting, O'Connor addressed the supplemental materials she provided the commission regarding the sale of the Dubuque County Arts Society building, the deficit reflected in the Dubuque Art Museums' financials, and the commission's history on funding the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. Shafer thanked O'Connor for her findings.

O'Connor noted that there was \$260,836 in requests and only \$200,000 available for the operating grants. Since the funding requested exceeded the amount available, Commission had directed staff to prepare various funding scenarios to be drawn up reflecting the scores and within the established guidelines. O'Connor presented several scenarios and Commissioners discussed options.

Hemmer presented an option that the organizations scoring below 80 points not be funded. Henkels stated that the guidelines the Commission has set is that only scores above 75 were grantable. O'Connor clarified that only the Special Projects grant guidelines requires that an application must score a minimum of 75 points to be funded. Steffen asked O'Connor if there was ever an organization that was not funded. O'Connor said that the Commission has not denied funding to any organization which met the eligibility criteria. In one instance the Commission did not review an application which was received after the deadline and they determined that another organization's application had significant deficiencies so funding was not recommended. Kames added she felt the Commission could not change the guidelines at this point in the process. O'Rourke questioned the Commission and asked if there was no policy to not fund an organization, then is the Commission required to fund them? Shafer replied that the Commission is because the guidelines state that organizations are funded by their scores. Shafer recommended the

commission review the grant policies prior to next year's grant cycle in January 2011.

Hemmer stated he felt that the Dubuque County Historical Society should not receive funding through this program. Steffen then posed the idea of in the future, the eligibility of the grants move to a need based system. Shafer stated she understood the feelings of the Commission but that those issues would need to be addressed in a special meeting in the future.

Steffen noted a small calculation error on the spreadsheet provided by staff and pointed out that there is \$1,792 remaining after each organization has received the percentage of funds based on their score. O'Connor asked the Commission how they wanted to allocate the remaining funds. Steffen stated that previously, the highest score received the remainder of the funding. Commissioners discussed dividing the money to other organizations whose funding had not been capped. Shafer asked that O'Connor work the percentage points until a smaller amount of money is left over. Steffen suggested \$250 or less. Steffen made a motion for O'Connor to change the percent allocations until \$250 or less was remaining. O'Rourke seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Review and approve Iowa Community Cultural Grant Application**

The Iowa Community Cultural Grant application for 10 hours for the part time Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator was reviewed. Motion by Shafer and seconded by Henkels to approve and submit the grant. Motion carried 6-0.

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

### **1. NEA Our Town Grant Application**

The City was approached by Dubuque Main Street and several local arts organizations regarding submitting a Letter of Intent for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town Grant. The maximum grant is \$250,000 and it's expected that approximately 35 grants will be awarded across the country to further arts initiatives. Several organizations came together in order to submit the grant for the April 25, 2011, deadline. The focus of the grant is to fund new and existing arts activities and events in the Historic Millwork District. Steffen thanked Shafer and O'Connor for their work on the grant.

### **2. 2011 Art on the River Exhibit**

Kurt shared with the Commission that Jennifer Hecker, artist of Martyr Dress #1, wrote to inform staff that she would not be able to participate in the 2011 Art on the River exhibit as previously planned. Kurt then contacted Jaak Kindberg, the first alternate that the jury had chosen. That particular sculpture was unavailable and therefore, the second alternate had to be called. Andrew Arvanetes was happy to take part in the show and photos of his sculpture titled, "Twist and Shout," were shown to the Commission.

### **3. Other Items**

O'Connor reminded the Commission that Special Project Grants are due May 3, 2011. Shafer recommended the Commission meet earlier at 4 p.m. to allow time for discussion on the grants.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Henkel's moved and O'Rourke seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 24 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lacy Board Room at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11th St., Dubuque, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Kurt

These minutes were passed and approved on May 24, 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Riedel, Secretary