

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Sue Riedel, Ellen Henkels, Louise Kames, Amy Weber, Mark Wahlert, Paul Kohl, Geri Shafer
Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Liz Willems

Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2007

Motion by Wahlert to approve, second by Weber, passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Projects Grant Program

John Woodin addressed the Commission with questions on the Special Projects Grants Program. The Dubuque Community School District Foundation is planning to be the lead applicant for grant funds for a multicultural festival. Woodin asked if a partner organization receives funding for festival activities, are they eligible to apply for another grant for their own project? Commission suggested that grant funding could be used for joint marketing without jeopardizing individual organizations ability to submit separate application, but if funding is directed to a specific organization to pay for festival events, that "counts" as a grant for that organization. Commission complimented the effort of many organizations partnering on this project.

Question was posed to the Commission on whether the Friends of the Mines of Spain qualifies as a "City of Dubuque" organization. The City of Dubuque owns the Mines of Spain and 37 acres around it, although it is outside of the city limits. Kohl said it was similar to the Dubuque Airport – although it is outside of the city limits, it's a city organization and should be an eligible applicant. Motion by Henkels, second by Kohl that Friends of the Mines of Spain is considered a city of Dubuque organization. All approved.

Strategic Plan:

Sue Riedel suggested Commission should be seeking other sources of funding for the arts. She expressed concern that the number of arts organizations and their annual operating budgets are increasing, although the city funding is at the same level.

There was a suggestion to form alliances with local businesses to allocate funding for arts programs. It was also suggested that the Commission form a partnership to do some “free” community based project. Could a commissioner be an applicant to the NEH for a grant? There was discussion about the importance of increasing accessibility to the arts.

The Arts Commission would like to prepare an annual report to show the impact of the arts funding. Louise, Sue, Geri and Amy volunteered to work with staff on an annual report with the goal of presenting the report to city council in early August. There was a suggestion of producing a “Year in Review” power point presentation on Channel 8 to show how the arts have impacted the local community.

Louise suggested approaching the Dubuque Cultural Alliance to establish an email alert for arts advocacy issues, i.e. to communicate on pending state and federal legislative issues.

Information Sharing

Information on Architecture Days April 9-14 was presented.

O'Connor noted that Commissioner terms are expiring in June for Kames, Kohl, Riedel and Wahlert. Commissioners wishing to be considered for reappointment must submit application by May 2. There will be an opportunity to address the City Council at the May 7 meeting, appointments will be made at the May 21 meeting.

The Americans for the Arts annual convention is June 1-3 in Las Vegas. Amy Weber and Geri Shafer both indicated interest in attending this conference.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24 at 3:30 p.m. Geri Shafer said she will be out of town on May 22. In April, the Commission will determine whether the May meeting is rescheduled. Motion by Shafer, second by Weber to adjourn. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Willems

These minutes passed, approved and adopted on April 24, 2007

Louise Kames, Secretary

