

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Paul Kohl, Louise Kames, Paul Hemmer and New Commissioner Julie Steffen

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Liz Willems

Present: Dan LoBianco, Dubuque Main Street, Ltd.

Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2008

Motion by Henkel, second by Kohl to approve minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dan LoBianco addressed the Commission on Dubuque Main Street Ltd.'s role in managing the existing and proposed 2nd Cultural and Entertainment District. He reviewed the application to the Department of Cultural Affairs to designate the Warehouse District as a Cultural and Entertainment District. The Department of Cultural Affairs was not supportive of expanding the current district to include the Warehouse District so the decision was made to submit an application for a separate district. Dubuque Main Street has been very involved with the comprehensive planning effort for the Warehouse District. He again reviewed the results of their study on the positive impact downtown cultural events have for existing retailers.

Dan shared that there have been concerns expressed on the salability of Five Flags in that the venue is not large enough to bring in big ticket acts without being over priced for the general public to attend. Ellen Henkels expressed concern there's an art collection including works by Frank Liccairdi and Carl Johnson on display in meeting rooms at Five Flags where there is limited access to the public.

Dan also provided a report on the success of Dubuque Architecture Days which was originally funded in part with a Special Projects Arts and Culture Grant.

New Commissioner Julie Steffen took Oath of Office.

NEW BUSINESS:**Annual Planning/Goal Setting Report:**

The Commission reviewed the Goal Setting Report and recommendations from Anne Katz with the goal of prioritizing them into an action plan.

Specific actions include:

- Developing a media presentation on how the Arts benefit the City of Dubuque.
- Encourage Arts groups to market outside of Dubuque.
- Develop a place (possibly use the Chamber website) on the internet that would have a link to where people can go on to find out when and where events are happening in the Dubuque area.
- Better communication with Conventions and Visitors Bureau.
- Possibility of using City money for advertising outside of Dubuque.
- Get specifics on an economic impact study to determine what impact the Arts have in Dubuque
- Give a presentation to Greater Dubuque Development Corporation for funding the Arts Economic Impact Study next fiscal year.
- Work on increasing accessibility to the arts

There was discussion that advocacy and visibility are probably the top priorities just by the sheer volume of items relating to this. Since two commissioners were unable to attend this meeting, the Commission decided to defer prioritization until the next meeting. Henkel moved to table the goal prioritization until the next meeting. Second by Hemmer. Motion passed 5-0

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION:

It was suggested that in future City News to showcase City owned Art. It may also be a vehicle to advertise the Arts Grant Programs.

Cultural Advocacy Day in Des Moines is February 18, 2009

INFORMATION SHARING:

Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator position job description was shared with the Commission. Jerelyn anticipates receiving approval to advertise position by week's end.

Motion by Henkels to adjourn meeting at 5:25 p.m. second by Kohl.

Respectfully submitted;

Liz Willems

These minutes were passed and approved on November 25, 2008

Ellen Henkels, Secretary