

Minutes
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
April 22, 2014
Lacy Boardroom, Carnegie-Stout Library

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Henkels at 4:30 P.M. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Katherine Kluseman, Sue Riedel, Marina O'Rourke, Jessica Teckemeyer, and Gina Siegert and Julie Steffen.

Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor and Megan Starr

Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2014. A motion was made by Riedel and seconded by O'Rourke to approve the minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review FY 2014 Operating Support Grant Applications

Chair Henkels introduced the process to be utilized for today's meeting to review the grant applications.

Bell Tower Productions; Sue Riedel recused herself from discussion on this application. Henkels stated that the application was well written, and they've been true to their mission. They have demonstrated community support, artistic excellence, detailed long range planning, competent staff, 50 sold out performances in 2013. Steffen was impressed with their strategic plan.

Colts Drum and Bugle Corps: Kay Kluseman summarized their funding request. The Colts has a full detailed business plan. They have a national reputation, solid leadership, and are re-engaging alumni. Riedel noted that their estimate is to lose \$43,000 and she recommends they have a goal of at least breaking even. O'Rourke expressed concern that the development director position was eliminated.

Arboretum: Kay Kluseman recused herself from the discussion. O'Rourke reviewed this organization. She said they have many wonderful programs and partnerships, liked the way they addressed the goals of the city. Organization is going through a year-long financial planning process. Strategy and long range plan looks good.

Dubuque Arts Council. Riedel noted that this organization has an excellent history of success since 1969. Meet City's cultural arts goals #1, 2, 3, 5, and 7. Provides services schools can't provide. They share artists with the Dubuque Symphony. Organization serves tons of residents and students. She noted that the Arts Council has an excellent evaluation system for visiting artists.

Dubuque Chorale: Siegert provided overview of organization. She noted that the Dubuque has a great diversity in programs. They are branching out into a children's choir. The Chorale Director provides strong leadership. Organization strives to have a strong executive board and they utilize many partnerships.

Dubuque County Fine Arts Society: Julie Steffen recused herself from this discussion. Jessica Teckemeyer provided an overview of this organization. She noted that the organization has big lofty goals, but how they implement them seems narrow. Nash Gallery has been a financial strain on the organization. The financial statements were concerning. Marina noted that the organization seems to be very much in transition. Riedel noted that the organization does some wonderful things in the community.

Dubuque County Historical Society: Julie Steffen provided a summary of their application. The organization is focusing on building their endowment. They have a history of high standards, developed outreach programs. They have made significant progress in community outreach. Teckemeyer questioned whether this organization needs funding from this program.

Dubuque Main Street/Cultural Corridor: Henkels noted that the organization has blossomed to be an advocate for arts organizations. She suggested their narrative should be more direct in specifying which of the City's cultural goals they meet. They have a long history and partnerships and collaborations. They are working on an arts advocacy video. Commissioners cited some confusion about the Master Plan and that the financial statements were for the entire organization, not just the cultural corridor portion.

Dubuque Museum of Art: Steffen recused herself from the discussion. Kay Kluseman cited their 140 year history, extensive partnerships, fiscal responsibility, fine collection of art, free admission on Thursdays.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. O'Rourke provided overview stating that Dubuque Symphony Orchestra is a stellar organization, new subscribers are up by 50%, excellence in programming, and showing financial growth in all areas. She appreciated seeing that they had both a one year and a longer range 3 year plan.

Fly-By-Night Productions: Kay Kluseman recused herself from the discussion. Riedel cited their 31 year history, diverse range in repertory. FBNP is a good example of an organization filling a niche very well. Marina noted that they have received 3 special project grants. Teckemeyer thought their statement on artistic excellence was too brief.

Grand Opera House. Siegert provided overview. She noted that part of their organization's mission is preservation of their building. They are improving the orchestra pit. The board is very involved. Henkels noted the big improvement in the application over last year.

Julien Dubuque International Film Festival. Steffen noted that there was excellent progress in defining the organization, but didn't see the mission outlined. Excellent progress on year long events and has recently been named one of the 25 coolest film festivals. They've exhibited strong continual engagement in the community. Fiscal and budget review are in process.

Matter Creative: Teckemeyer provided overview and stated there was a focus on goal 3 of the City's cultural arts goals. The notion of corporate training was vague. They created a 3 year action plan, but the long term goals are unclear. Grant was repetitive. There was some concern about the stability of Matter Creative. O'Rourke and Siegert has some questions on their financials.

Northeast Iowa School of Music: Henkels provided overview stating that application was well written and organization has strong community based support, remarkable partnerships, new stability in financial condition, 10 year strategic plan, and revised mission and vision statements. She suggests that they specifically address which cultural arts goals they address. They serve 800 students annually.

Rising Star Theatre Company: Kluseman provided overview stating they focus on kids and families, utilize unique locations. Since 2009, 15,000 people have attended their productions and over 800 people have been involved on and off stage.

After a brief break, commissioners submitted their scores.

	Henkels	Kluseman	O'Rourke	Riedel	Siegert	Steffen	Teckemeyer	average
Dubuque County Historical	100	78	97	100	95	95	98	94.7143
Dubuque Symphony Orchestra	94	80	98	98	94	93	100	93.8571
Northeast Iowa School of Music	100	93	95	90	92	91	96	93.8571
Bell Tower Productions	98	77	97		95	92	98	92.8333
Dubuque Arboretum	92		91	96	92	89	94	92.3333
Grand Opera House	100	77	93	90	95	91	98	92
Colts Drum & Bugle	94	88	95	85	94	92	92	91.4286
Dubuque Museum of Art	93	89	85	89	86		91	88.8333
Dubuque Arts Council	92	59	98	91		91	97	88
Fly-By-Night Productions	84		88	87	91	90	87	87.8333
Dubuque Main Street Inc.	91	82	77	85		84	89	84.6667
Rising Star Theatre Company	85	59	90	86	86	89	92	83.8571
Dubuque Chorale	86	49	93	81	92	90	86	82.4286
Julien Dubuque International	90	61	71	79	91	95	86	81.8571
Matter	84	60	78	77	77	79	54	72.7143
Dubuque County Fine Arts	70	38	60	70	89		58	64.1667

Next steps: Staff will calculate average scores and will present possible funding scenarios at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Steffen and second by Teckemeyer to adjourn. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan Starr
Economic Development Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on 5/27/14

K.A. Kluseman
Secretary