

Minutes

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 25th, 2015

Lacy Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marina O'Rourke at 4:37 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

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

Staff present: Debra Alleyne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of July 28th 2015: O'Rourke made a motion, second by Siegart to receive and file the minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Master Plan

City staff Debra Alleyne gave a synopsis of the series of workshops conducted by Lord Cultural resources and the outcome. She mentioned that the consultants may potentially return for an unscheduled visit upon request from the City Manager to ensure that all communities will be represented in the research. Riedel recommended that we have a unified vision and talking points for when we engage with the public on the topic of the master plan. O'Rourke recommended that we use methods at our disposal to communicate information to the wider public to educate them about what the master plan is and its relevance to them.

2. Discussion of workshops

The commissioners all detailed the main themes derived from their participation in various workshops. Teckemeyer deduced that there wasn't a collective understanding about the master plan from her engagement in the various workshops held. She also mentioned that academic bodies were frustrated about being excluded from the city granting opportunities. She stated that many colleges do not receive a budget for programming and that the identity of Dubuque as a college town is not being embraced by the community. Siegart also conveyed the frustration of some of the participants with regard to the city grants. They referenced the shrinking pool of resources or rather the increasing number of grant applicants with a stagnant budget allotment. She also mentioned that participants of the workshops were confused by the Special Projects grant and what constitutes a special project. Henkels mentioned that the Artist and arts admin workshop was well attended and that the discussion was lively. Teckemeyer interjected about the artists frustration which was centered around the fact the city provides a small amount of resources for arts and culture programming but benefits a

significant amount from the vibrancy that the artist's work very hard to provide at low or no cost. O'Rourke also interjected with the recommendation that the business community and academic organizations should be more involved as arts and culture would be a useful recruitment and a long term retention tool

3. Inclusive Dubuque Equity profile dialogue on Arts

Kluseman informed the commission that the Inclusive Dubuque survey received overwhelming participation but that the participation was not reflective of the composition of the Dubuque community. Alleyne asked how the commission intended to permeate the underrepresented communities and recommended that the commission should find methods that provide the opportunity for fair and equitable representation within the commission. Kluseman recommended that the commission find ways to break down barriers to participation in the arts and Teckemeyer recommended that perhaps the Special Project Grant be revamped for that purpose.

4. Calendar Report

O'Rourke and Alleyne introduced the new calendar with the addition of brainstorming and idea generation scheduled for each quarter. This was included to give the commission the opportunity to suggest new ideas and initiatives. O'Rourke also mentioned that each commissioner should rotate assisting Alleyne on initiatives as we move through the year. Siegart volunteered to help with communications about the master plan and Henkels volunteered to assist will the Art on the River Committee.

5. Board recruitment

Alleyne reached out to a young man about the open commission seat and distributed his credentials to the commission. Although it was unclear if he would be able to meet all of the requirements for the particular seat available, there was consensus that the commission should cultivate multiple options for future vacancies.

6. Brain storming idea generation

Alleyne made the recommendation that, that participation in city initiatives should be a mandatory and that this condition should be included in the wording of the grant. She also recommended that Operational Support grant recipients, moving forward, as a condition for their eligibility should contribute in kind (exhibition of the particular art form) to the City run and funded Art on the River.

ITEMS FROM COMMISION

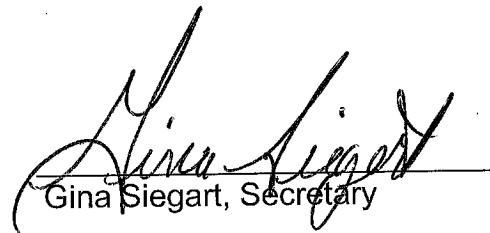
ADJOURNMENT – Riedel made a motion to adjourn, second by Henkels.
Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 21, Code of Iowa and applicable local regulations of the City of Dubuque. Persons with limited English proficiency or vision, hearing or speech impairments needing special assistance should contact the City Manager's Office at 589-4110 or (563) 589-4230 for TDD.

Respectfully submitted:
Debra Alleyne
Economic Development Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on

September 22, 2015


Gina Siegart

Gina Siegart, Secretary