

Minutes

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

December 13, 2016

Bell Tower Theater, 2728 Asbury Rd # 242, Dubuque, IA 52001

The meeting was called to order by Susan Riedel at 4:45 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Mary Armstrong, Nicholas Bratcher, Matthew Gregory, Ellen Henkels, Sue Riedel, David Schmitz, Gina Siegert

Staff present: Debra Alleyne, Maurice Jones

Guest present: Geri Schafer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 28, 2016. Motion to accept minutes with by Commissioner Henkels and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Art on the River Winter Edition update

Commissioner Armstrong recounted the last meeting with the snow sculptors to the commission describing it as uncooperative. She detailed their dissatisfaction with the pace of the process and discontent with the \$1500 budget allotted to the event. Due to this lack of support, assistance, time and funding Alleyne felt compelled to cancel the event and carry over work already completed to 2018. Commissioner Schmitz made a motion to postpone the Sculpture Festival until next year and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gregory and passed 7-0.

2. Attendance

Chair Riedel brought up attendance and unexcused absences. Procedures and consequences surrounding these were discussed. Commissioners were urged to take note and review the protocol. Chair Riedel suggested that meetings begin at 4 PM instead of 4:30 PM. Commissioner Siegert made a motion to begin meetings in 2017 at 4 PM, seconded by Matthew Gregory and passed 7-0.

3. Arts and Business Luncheon update

Commissioner Schmitz discussed the high points of the event. He noted that the steering committee comprised of himself, Alleyne and Geri Schafer was pleased with the outcome and had hopes for a better event next year. The recorded shows that 87 people were in attendance exceeding the expected 70. 51 surveys collected and the majority showed some interest in getting involved further. Chair Riedel was curious about what the next steps would be and Commissioner Siegert wondered what city group would house this board. Mrs. Schafer explained that ideally, businesses would become more involved with the arts locally. The group would be independent and once convened, would identify goals. The commission urged the steering committee to contact interested parties soon to convene the council.

4. Arts and Cultural Master Plan

Alleyne was questioned about the Master Plan and its availability to the public. Alleyne assured the commission that the plan would be published the document and urged the commission to embrace the content. Commissioner Schmitz devised an implementation roadmap for the Master Plan that incorporated the commission and City council that built task forces based on priorities. The roadmap structure was widely discussed and eventually accepted. Commissioner Schmitz recommended that upon publication of the Master Plan on City website, we should introduce the concept of the steering committee is being created.

5. Budget and Arts and Cultural Affairs Department direction update

Director Jones spoke on status on Commission's grant programs and coordinator position and discussed how closely it was tied to the Arts and Cultural Master Plan. He said that there has been no discussion about funding for the arts and suggested that now is time to communicate on how we plan to implement the Master Plan to address this and a variety of issues. Alleyne asked about funding for Art on the River as well. City staff recommended that the commission be ready before next August when the strategic planning process takes place.

6. Cultural Heritage Grant

Alleyne recommended that the commission used the unused funds from the Special Project Grant to pilot a Cultural Heritage Grant. In preparation, she would research other grants of this kind and meet with the MFC and present at the next meeting. She will prepare for next meeting

Next meeting is January 24th @4:00 at the Lacy boardroom.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Henkels made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Siegert. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 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
Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on

January 31, 2017


Gina Siegert, Secretary