

Minutes

## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 22, 2017

Lacey Board Room, Carnegie Stout Library

**The meeting was called to order by Ellen Henkels at 4:01 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.**

**Commissioners present:** Mary Armstrong, Matthew Gregory, Ellen Henkels, Ali Levasseur, Sue Riedel, David Schmitz, Gina Siegert,

**Absent:** None

Staff present: Debra Alleyne, Maurice Jones, Teri Goodmann

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of July 25 2017.** Motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Riedel seconded by Commissioner Armstrong. Motion carried 6-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. **Oath of officers**

Newly appointed Ali Levasseur took the oath of office and was sworn in by newly appointed Chair, Ellen Henkels.

#### 2. **Discussion of role of the commission on public art**

The discussion of public art commenced with identifying current art projects in the public domain and the concerns surrounding the project. Alleyne introduced the fact that she has been the recipient of questions and concerns about the current mural project from residents and colleagues, ranging from positive to negative. Due to the fact that no information was provided about the project to her, her ability to address these concerns were limited. Alleyne went on to say that there were expectations that she, as well as the commission, would be able to provide information and context about the project. However, without a collective understanding about the project, neither party could speak confidently about it.

Commissioner Riedel talked about being consulted in the past on a case-by-case basis about individual arts pieces through the City Council on public art on public property. Chair Henkels did point out that the murals were on private property and may not necessarily be considered public art. Alleyne agreed but mentioned that it was in the public domain and was concerned about the Vera Rights Act, copyright issues and legal issues due to the size of the artwork with them being in the public domain.

Secretary Siegert reminded the commission that as representatives of the community for the city that it is their responsibility to communicate that there is

no public art policy but suggested that we extend an invitation to the Voices Productions team and ask them to share their process with the commission. Maurice Jones shared some information he had about the project concerning its funding and scope, but not details about the contracts. Alleyne stated that there are many unanswered questions that could have a significant impact on the city legally and financially if inadequately handled.

Alleyne reiterated that although the mural project is the impetus for the discussion, it was not necessarily about this particular project, but how the commission viewed their role as stewards of the arts in Dubuque. Commissioner Schmitz talked about acting in the public interest and the commission providing a public service as stewards of the arts in the community. He continued that with being an advisory commission, creating a checklist or guidelines and discussing project with the interested parties could provide context for them as they move forward, and in this case, it includes discussions surrounding the rights of the artists; the city; and issues of historical preservation. Commissioner Riedel spoke about the various policies that she found and that perhaps in the master plan working group for public art, would be able to use best practice to create our guidelines.

### **3. Master Plan moving forward.**

Alleyne distributed the condensed Implementation Plan based on the commission's strategic planning sessions with the City Managers. Commissioner Armstrong commented that the connected version was helpful and asked about next steps. Commissioner Schmitz explained the combined spreadsheet representing the names and sectors that the commission identified as potential representatives on the Task Force.

Discussion followed about working groups plus the commissioner's role. Goodman suggested the next step would be understanding and solidifying the Task Force, and preparing the presentation ready to present to the City Council. Goodman and Jones suggested a work session with Council. Commissioners added names to the spreadsheet by sector with the intent of having recommendations to Alleyne for the City Manager. It was recommended that the timelines and strategies should be defined for the task force and working groups with regard to goals, accountability, outcomes, expected commitment timeframes.

The sectors identified were:

Education – higher education and K-12; creative business; tech business; manufacturing; legal; service club; youth services; after school programs; for-profit arts & entertainment; casinos; GDDC; CVB; Dubuque Chamber; Junior Chamber; developers; utilities; unions; city staff; county / state representatives; West End; North End; Downtown; Millwork; faith leaders, Economic development, sustainable groups

**City Expo is Sept 23.** Commissioners are asked to attend and help Alleyne at Expo booth.

**Art and Humanities Month:** October is Arts and Humanities month and the commission should be present at the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT** Commissioner Schmitz motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Gregory at 5:43pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 26

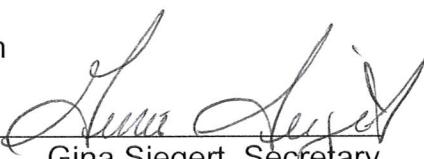
Respectfully submitted:

Debra Alleyne

Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on

September 26, 2017

  
Gina Siegert

Gina Siegert, Secretary