

Minutes

## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

September 26, 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, Gina Siegert

**Absent:** David Schmitz

**Staff present:** Debra Alleyne, Maurice Jones

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of August 22, 2017.** Motion to accept minutes by Commission Gregory seconded by Commissioner Riedel. Motion carried 6-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. **Guest speaker from Voices Productions - Gene Tully**

Gene Tully spoke to the commission as a representative of the Mural Project. Voices Productions felt there was a need for modern art opportunities in the public domain. He said that Modern Street Art is an up and coming trend and that his group believes that this type of art should be available in public spaces. The Voices from the Warehouse project in 2015 connected his group with many mural artists, private partners and property owners in the City of Dubuque. He described the process in detail of acquiring the artists, selecting the work, finding the resources & investment, scheduling and scouting locations. He spoke about the logistical aspects of completing the projects and about the search for qualified and professional muralists. Nineteen walls have been completed to date. He said that examples of scale of the Mural Project in Dubuque compared to other cities involved in this movement. Tully also defined the differences between graffiti, muraling, and Street Art. The commission and staff took the opportunity to ask questions that had been discussed in other spheres.

#### **Commission discussion with Gene Tully**

Alleyne asked him how he viewed the commission's role in supporting local artists and groups interested in creating public art or art that would live in the public domain. Tully extoled the importance of communication about projects like his. Alleyne pressed the importance having information in advance and encouraged Tully to make recommendations to the commission on how they could provide support; as ambassadors of the community. Tully replied that his expertise was in the act of making art and organizing but not in creating systems. Commissioner Riedel asked about the cost of artists fees and supplies, and details of financing. \$70,000.00 was raised through partnership with Humanities Iowa and private partners. Commissioner Riedel also asked

Tully who owned the art. Alleyne also followed up with question about the waiver crafted and recommended by the City Attorney for the Voices Productions. This waiver once signed by the participating artists would release the City of any liability associated with this private project. Tully did not confirm use of the waiver and redirected questions about contract details to one of his associates. Commissioner Levasseur commiserated with the confident nature of some projects and recommended that this information could be shared with the commission with caveats to ensure that the commission remains knowledgeable about the project while protecting privacy of the project in process. Commissioner Siegert also talked about the artist selection process and the questions she received about it, indicating that more information earlier should have made answering those questions easier. Commissioner Armstrong reiterated offering guidance to artists and participants via published guidelines or checklist.

**2. Selection subcommittee presentation:**

Commissioner Henkels spoke about the subcommittee meeting to winnow the long list of recommended individuals for the Master Plan taskforce. Alleyne listed the names and groups and will send updated spreadsheet. This list offered options for 10 – 15, 20 and 30 persons that were prioritized on essential sectors first and expanded with the group size to include as many sectors as possible. Commissioner Gregory questioned why the final list was so much smaller. spoke on that. The commissioners recommended a 20-member list and asked that that be represented at council.

**3. Arts and Business Update:**

Alleyne reported to the commissioners that the speakers had been selected for the Arts and Business Luncheon and that the event was set to be held on November 2 at Grand River Center. She gave a background on the speakers and details of the luncheon and that the topic: *From philanthropy to Investment* was timely. Alleyne asked commissioners to help promote the events to their networks. Commissioner Levasseur, suggested reviewing the contract with Grand River Center to maximize the budget. Commissioner Gregory committed to assist with the Business of the Arts evening event at the Smokestack.

**4. Arts and Humanities Month:**

Commissioner Schmitz will accept proclamation and other commissioners are encouraged to attend. Chair Henkels presented her activity recommendation to the group. Chair Henkels suggested using a Farmer's Market booth to distribute arts other materials for Arts & Humanities. Commission discussion followed and they agreed to use the Millwork Night Market on October 12 instead. At the market brochures, fliers, postcards and info for Arts and Business Luncheon would be distributed. Commissioner Levasseur suggested we highlight information on each of our grant recipients, each day in October. Commissioner Siegert suggested adding more of the Commissioners as administrators on Facebook.

##### 5. **Grant improvement**

Chair Henkels suggested the formation of a finance taskforce and Special Projects awareness campaign. Names were recommended and existing forms like the DRA forms were suggested. Chair Henkels opened up discussion with a recommendation to include new partners to market to. As Special Projects do not need to have 501c3 status but must only be partnered with one. Chair Henkels would like to create a task force, workshop and marketing campaign to achieve this goal. Commissioner Siegert suggested asking someone with expertise in this area and finding a common location to hold the event. Commissioner Levasseur suggested to bring ideas to next meeting.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dr. Stephen Rock, a doctor of sports medicine from Medical Associates, inquired about how the Commission can help give a more cohesive approach to some of the youth athletes in the arts. Commission acknowledged interest and invited him to present at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** Commissioner Siegert motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Riedel at 5:43 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for October 24.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Alleyne  
Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on

October 24, 2017.   
Gina Siegert, Secretary