



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, August 25, 2020

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Via GoToMeeting

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: Ali Levasseur, Nicholas Halder, Susan Riedel, Ryan Decker, Tyler Daugherty.

Commissioners Absent: Gina Siegert, Paula Neuhaus.

Staff Present: Jennifer Petersen-Brant

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Levasseur at 4:03 PM following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept minutes of July 21, 2020 by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Riedel. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, and Daugherty voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Status Updates from Staff

FY21 Operating Support Grants: Staff provided updates on the current status of grants. Operating Support Grant contract language has been confirmed by legal and have been sent out to all awarded organizations. Award letters are due back this week. Due to City Budget review and anticipated reductions due to COVID-19, the Operating Grant funds will be distributed quarterly and 1st quarter payments will be reduced by 5% to align with Economic Development Department 10% reduction plan. Grant recipients have been given this information and will submit quarterly invoices for payment; grantees with awards less than \$3,000 will receive award in full at this time. There is \$2,928 from the originally budgeted \$250,000 that was not awarded. It was determined that with the continual budgeting updates, the commission would continue to revisit these funds to determine the best use of the un-awarded funds.

Storm Drain Mural Project: The Storm Drain Mural Project deadline is approaching on September 15, 2020. Staff asked for commissioner volunteers to sit on the Jury to

determine the top designs. Commissioners Decker and Halder stated they would be available to help with Jury.

Bloomberg/Asphalt Art Initiative Bus Shelter Sidewalk Murals: Updated timeline for the Grant shows community engagement this fall with call to artists going out in Spring 2021 to have the murals painted summer of 2021.

GARE Grant Award: Staff wrote and submitted an application for funding from the Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE)'s Innovation and Implementation Fund for Arts and Culture related projects to support the planning and outreach related to the forthcoming Dubuque Renaissance Project. A request of \$18,500 was submitted. Staff received notice that the request was fully funded.

FY21 Special Projects Grant Scoring Review: Staff reported that the Commission has been authorized to award out 50% of the budgeted funds, for a total of \$17,500 at this time which could be accomplished by awarding funding to the top 2-3 proposals now, and funding the others in a 2nd phase of awards. When preparing score information from the grant reviewers, it was discovered that one reviewer scores had not been received, therefore Commission was not able to make any recommendations for Council to review at this time. Discussion followed on the timeline of proposed special projects and if the projects would still be able to happen due to COVID limitations; staff will contact all applicants to discuss. Upon receiving the additional scores, staff will compile and send to Chair Levasseur for review. Chairperson Levasseur will review and determine whether scheduling a special meeting is warranted.

City Council Goal Setting: Staff reported that City Council included arts and culture related efforts in their August goal setting session. Under the City Council's Policy Agenda High Priorities for 2020-2022 the following were identified:

- Arts and Culture Master Plan Implementation: Update Report, Direction, and Actions
- Arts Operating Grants and Art on the River: Update Report, Funding, Direction, and City Action

Discussion followed regarding letters submitted to City Council from the Master Plan's Task Force and collective of funded arts and culture organizations; staff to forward letters to Commission. Other discussion regarding implications and opportunities with being a Council priority.

Current Events Reporting from Commissioners

- Commissioner Decker asked if Commissioner could have a discussion and review of the Special Project Grant program. Other Commissioner's agreed and asked that we place this conversation on the Agenda for a meeting, perhaps the September or October meeting.
- Bell Tower digital performances of *Nothing Good Happens after Midnight* will have two performance times on Facebook, September 17, 2020 at 7pm and September 19, 2020 at 7pm.

- Train Wreck Productions' Digital Drinks & Dialogue continues on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- Clarke University will be announcing a full creation or development of a new play with different Alumni. Digital readings, workshops, with production spring 2021; more information will be available soon.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Riedel and seconded by Commissioner Decker. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Riedel, Decker, and Daugherty voted to approve motion; Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Jenni Petersen-Brant
Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on Sept. 22, 2020.

Witnessed By:  (signature)

Ari Levasseur (printed)

Chairperson (officer position)