



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, September 22, 2020

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Via GoToMeeting

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: Nicholas Halder, Ryan Decker, Gina Siegert, Tyler Daugherty, Paula Neuhaus, Ali Levasseur (arrived at 4:16PM)

Commissioners Excused: Susan Riedel

Staff Present: Jennifer Petersen-Brant, Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Neuhaus at 3:38 PM following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Review of Minutes: Motioned to approve minutes of August 25, 2020 by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Halder. Commissioners Halder, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Commissioner Levasseur arrived 4:16 PM.

Reports from Master Plan Working Groups/Task Force: Discussion on letter drafted and sent to City Council by the Task Force of the Master Plan. Letter highlighted impact of arts and culture on community vibrancy and livability. Endorsed by all active Task Force members except members that are also City Staff; not role of City Staff to sign onto advocacy actions. Discussion on momentum of Working Group / Task Force efforts related to implementation of the Master Plan to engage Commission in the role they might play. Momentum had increased prior to COVID but has declined. Staff advised to continue work with Task Force in reviewing goals and setting new priorities among Working Groups. Timelines and milestones as drafted for City Council related to their 2020-22 Policy High Priorities regarding arts and culture including Operating Support Grant Program, Art on the River, and Implementation of the Arts & Culture Master Plan. Discussion on the responsibilities of Commission and Task Force related to these timelines. Staff advised to share same information and engage Task Force along the timeline. Motion to accept working group reports by Commissioner Daugherty,

seconded by Commissioner Decker. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Status Updates from Staff

FY21 Operating Support Grants: Staff reported that all Operating Support agreements were sent out. City's budget reduction plan response to COVID-19 not in place for 1st Quarter so grantees will receive full 1/4 of award (or full award if entire award under \$3000). Discussion on impacts and continued need for clarification of expectations regarding addition of new DEI language added to this year's contract.

Bus Shelter Mural Project funded by Bloomberg: Staff reported that project facilitation has begun. First steps include working with Public Information Office to develop branding for project, including a 'name'. Internal City discussions have led to suggestion of 'Art on the Route'. 'Art En Route' suggested by Commissioner Decker; Staff to review suggestion with PIO and Public Art Working Group before finalizing choice. Next steps to include development of community engagement strategy; community engagement being sought to add voice of community to call for artists and support overall participation of community in project. Staff also noted that artists have been selected from Storm Drain Mural proposal by panel of 3 community members.

City Council Policy Agenda as submitted: Staff shared outcomes and timelines / milestones drafted to measure and evaluate efforts on City Council's 2020-22 Policy High Priorities regarding arts and culture including Operating Support Grant Program, Art on the River, and Implementation of the Arts & Culture Master Plan; quarterly reporting by City staff will be required. Discussion followed. Recognized that subcommittees of Commission and working Groups of Master Plan will have to assist in the efforts. It was clarified that the subcommittee groups within the Commission will assist Jenni on some of the tasks.

Special Projects grant scoring for recommendation to City Council: Staff reported that City Manager as authorized Commission to move forward with awarding out a portion, up to \$17,500, of Special Projects funding. A Phase II opportunity to allocate remaining funds may come later in the year; Staff to revisit in advance of January 2021 Commission meeting. Commission presented with scoring and request level spreadsheet for consideration including Staff recommendations. Discussion followed. Motion to make a recommendation fully fund top 3 applications of \$2,158 to St Mark Youth Enrichment, \$4,600 to Dubuque County Historical Society, \$7,860 to Travel Dubuque, allocating \$14,618 of FY21 Special Projects budget by Commissioner Halder, seconded by Commissioner Decker. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Decker, Siegert voted to approve motion; Commissioners Daugherty and Neuhaus abstained due to affiliation with applicants; Motion passed.

Discussion: October as Arts & Humanities month: Staff presented draft of proclamation for Commission review. Discussion followed; edits made. Motion to accept proclamation as revised by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner

Levasseur. Motion carries. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Decker, Siegert, Daugherty, Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Additional discussion on other awareness efforts alongside proclamation reading including collaboration / partnering messaging with arts and culture organizations as much as possible. Commissioner Siegert inquired about pairing a virtual performance with reading; Staff to inquire and arrange if possibility. Discussion in ability of Commission to participate and show support of proclamation with City Council meeting being virtual; Staff to inquire and follow up with Commissioners.

Commissioner Siegert left at 5:09 PM.

FY22 Budget, Improvement Package Requests: Staff reported on FY22 City Budget timelines and shared Improvement Packages being considered for proposal by Department. Increase to Operating Support Grant Program, new funding for Arts and Culture focused DEI training for Arts & Culture grantees, new funding for Commission Goal-setting; cost of improvement packages not suggested. Discussion followed.

Other, Americans for the Arts Federal Creative Workers Proposal: Discussion on Americans for the Arts' "[To Rebuild and Reimagine Put Creative Workers to Work](#)" federal policy proposal. Motion to recommend City Council endorse AFTA proposal and for Staff to draft memo accordingly by Commissioner Daugherty, seconded by Commissioner Halder. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Decker, Daugherty, Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed.

Commissioner Daugherty left at 5:23 PM.

Current Events Reporting from Commissioners:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Levasseur. Commissioners Levasseur, Halder, Decker, and Neuhaus voted to approve motion; Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 3:30PM via GoToMeeting

Respectfully submitted:

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

These minutes were passed and approved on Oct 27, 2020.

Witnessed By:  (signature)
Ali LeVasseur (printed)

Chairperson (officer position)