

MINUTES  
**ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010  
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
360 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Dubuque, Iowa

**Meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.**

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels Louise Kames, Paul Kohl, Sue Riedel, Geri Shafer, Paul Hemmer. Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel

Others present: Dan Lobianco, Paula Neuhaus, Meg Wall-Wild, Hunter Fuerste.

**Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2010.** Motion by Riedel, second by Kames to approve minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Approve 2010 Art on the River Jury Selection.** O'Connor presented slide show with the jury selections and alternates for the 2010 Art on the River Exhibit. Stoffel described process of selection of artwork, applications received, and jury composition. The selected exhibit has also been reviewed and approved by the Art on the River Committee. Motion by Hemmer, second by Steffen to approve the Art on the River selections. Steffen stated that she is impressed with the artistic quality of the selections.
  
2. **Review and Fund Operating Grant Applications.**

Commission Chair Shafer reviewed the process for reviewing the Operating Support funding requests. Each commissioner will have an opportunity to comment on the applications and raise any issues/questions. Minutes will reflect any issues raised and a summary of reviewers comments will be made available to the applicants.

**Dubuque County Historical Society** – Generally positive comments on the impact of the organization, standard of cultural excellence. Steffen questioned whether arts and culture is the primary mission of the organization. Kohl asked what percentage of budget is arts and culture. Both Riedel and Hemmer mentioned that they thought the City should fund this Historical Society directly.

**Downtown Dubuque Cultural Corridor** – Strengths include proven leadership, record, important development organization for downtown and for the Dubuque arts community. Riedel asked whether the Millwork District is part of the designated Cultural Corridor. Lobianco said that Dubuque Main Street adopted the Millwork District as a service area and portion of White and Jackson Streets have been added to the state approved cultural corridor.

**Grand Opera House** – Paul Hemmer abstained from participating in this discussion. There was discussion about some of the transitions of this organization. Board member Fuerste said that the Grand is not just renovating the building but is also renovating the programs.

**Bell Tower Productions** - Riedel abstained from participating in the discussion. Impressive that a small staff is able to administrate so many programs and performances.

**Colts** – There were several questions pertaining to their deficit operating budget and how the Colts plan was to meet their expenses. Positive comments about the inclusion of the economic impact statement.

**Dubuque Arts Council** – Hemmer abstained from the discussion. Commendations on their multitude of excellent programs, educational role, large audiences.

**Dubuque Chorale** – demonstrated record of excellence. Recommendation that they develop a strategic plan.

**Dubuque County Fine Arts Society** - Paul Kohl and Julie Steffen abstained from the discussion. There were compliments on the DCFAS mission of accessibility to the arts. There were concerns about the organization not following through on their strategic plan

**Arboretum** - Steffen said she thinks its arts and culture programming is secondary to its core mission. Paul Kohl stated that horticulture is a cultural venue.

**Dubuque Museum of Art** – Steffen abstained from the discussion. Comment were made regarding that museum is operating at a deficit.

**Dubuque Symphony Orchestra** - Positive comments on their leadership, outstanding quality, NEA grant is a feather in their cap, and their educational initiatives.

**Fly-by-Night-Productions** - Suggestion that they include their attendance figures and would like to hear more about their plans for the future.

**NISOM** – Henkels mentioned that “schools” are not eligible for funding in this program. Riedel stated that they are much more than a school and have made efforts to increase their outreach.

Commissioners took a few minutes to finalize their scoring sheets. Scores from each applicant were read aloud and tabulated.

| FY 11 Operating Support Funding | Scores |         |         |       |         |         |        |         |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|                                 |        | Hemmer  | Henkels | Kames | Kohl    | Riedel  | Shafer | Steffen |
| Dbq Symphony                    | 95.1   | 100     | 99      | 99    | 83      | 97      | 99     | 89      |
| Bell Tower Productions          | 93.3   | 100     | 97      | 89    | 83      | ABSTAIN | 99     | 92      |
| Dubuque Arts Council            | 91.2   | ABSTAIN | 92      | 97    | 84      | 91      | 94     | 89      |
| Dubuque County Historical       | 90.3   | 100     | 97      | 91    | 78      | 100     | 93     | 73      |
| Fly-By-Night Productions        | 87.7   | 100     | 89      | 91    | 80      | 85      | 80     | 89      |
| Dubuque Main Street Ltd.        | 87.6   | 100     | 83      | 92    | 76      | 87      | 91     | 84      |
| Dubuque Museum of Art           | 87.5   | 100     | 81      | 86    | 74      | 90      | 94     | ABSTAIN |
| Colts Drum & Bugle              | 87.3   | 100     | 86      | 91    | 74      | 89      | 90     | 81      |
| Dubuque Chorale                 | 84.7   | 100     | 83      | 85    | 66      | 89      | 87     | 83      |
| Grand Opera House               | 82.7   | ABSTAIN | 91      | 82    | 74      | 80      | 82     | 87      |
| Dubuque Fine Arts Society       | 80.2   | 98      | 81      | 75    | ABSTAIN | 77      | 70     | ABSTAIN |
| N.E. Iowa School of Music       | 79     | 87      | 75      | 86    | 63      | 83      | 70     | 89      |
| Dubuque Arboretum               | 76.4   | 93      | 58      | 78    | 70      | 80      | 86     | 70      |

Consensus of the commission was to have staff prepare some funding scenarios and commission will finalize funding recommendations at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Special Project Final Report Review.**

Stoffel reviewed the request of Get Reel/Rotary Foundation to amend their 2010 special projects grant to fund additional filmmaking workshops. Riedel was concerned about setting the precedent of adding a new activity that was not specified in the original activity. Motion by Riedel, second by Hemmer to deny the request to amend the special project grant agreement. Ayes, Riedel, Hemmer, Henkels, Kohl, Shafer, Steffen. Nay: Kames. Motion passes 6-1.

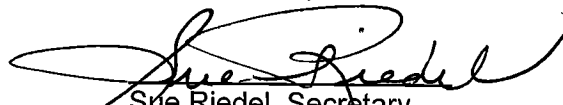
**ADJOURNMENT**

Riedel moved and Hemmer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 27.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerelyn O'Connor

These minutes were passed and approved on April 27, 2010

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Riedel, Secretary