

MINUTES
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 27, 2009
Board Room, Carnegie Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners present: Paul Hemmer, Louise Kames, Paul Kohl, Sue Riedel, Geri Shafer. Julie Steffen and Ellen Henkels were unable to attend. Staff Present: Jerelyn O'Connor, Jan Stoffel

Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2009. Motion by Kohl, second by Riedel to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Pyatigorsk Park Sculpture and Art on the River and Sister City relationship.** Jeff Walters, a member of the City Council's Sister City Committee, attended to bring the Commission up to date on the status of the proposed art piece to be placed in Pyatigorsk Park. He explained that Iowa is one of seven Sister States in the US and Dubuque has had multiple cultural and economic exchanges for many years with Pyatigorsk. It is a city in southern Russia, similar to Dubuque in its mix of tourism and industrial aspects, but twice in size. Commissioners viewed the proposed art work. The design was representational of Pyatigorsk being the city of five mountain peaks – pyati meaning five in Russian. Commissioners wanted to know more about the process used in selecting this piece, were other artists involved, the dimensions and materials used, and if there would be only this submission. They suggested that the design reflect the relationship between the two cities. There is a \$5,000 budget for the project from Art on the River funds. For costs concerns and also to create a cultural exchange, the artist would probably construct the piece in Dubuque with possible support from artists in the community. Commissioners suggested for the Russians to review the Art on the River website to examine the examples of outdoor sculpture and the information the City usually requires from submitting artists. They suggested that the Art on the River Committee review the designs in the future. There is no definite timeline in mind, and Jeff will seek more information from Pyatigorsk and keep the Commission posted.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Determine improvement level budget request.** Members discussed options for requesting a budget improvement package from the City Council. Chair Shafer consulted with members not present during recent discussions. Consensus was reached to request a flat percentage of funding increase to the Operating Support Grant Program. Since FY06, the cumulative operating budgets of applicants has risen from \$7.3 million to \$10.3 million and the number of eligible applicants is growing. The Commission has never been able to fund to its guidelines of 6% of the

operating budget up to a maximum of \$50,000. If the Commission had fully funded to these guidelines, \$260,000, to \$300,000 would have been required each year. Commissioners recognized that arts and cultural groups have been negatively affected by the economic down turn and need support, but they also cautioned that the City has many financial obligations and increases in funding may be modest if approved. Riedel moved and Hemmer seconded to request a 10% increase in Operating Support Grant funds, bringing the total from \$200,000 to \$220,000. Motion carried 5-0.

- 2. Strategic Plan Update.** Chair Shafer advised commissioners to peruse the updated plan. The plan will be revisited in six months, with the expanded planning session to be held in August.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION: Chair Shafer Commented on the well-attended Cultural Alliance event at the library on October 24. Commissioners were concerned that the Cultural Alliance is not as active as in the past and that brainstorming solutions to city-wide arts collaboration, cooperation and communication is important to continue. Chair Shafer asked that Commissioners be kept informed of the final report status of special project grant applicants. Deadline for final reports is September 30 after the year of funding. Staff will provide copies of all final reports annually on or before September 30.

INFORMATION SHARING:

Commissioners were provided a time line of Commission activities for the coming year. Stoffel will begin conversations with area groups regarding community-wide arts marketing and event publicity. The City of Dubuque received an award from the get Reel Film Festival for sponsorship of this year's event through Special Project Grant funding. Voices from the Warehouse and the Dubuque Arts Council sent letters of thanks after their events through Special Project funding. Stoffel will attend the Iowa Cultural Coalition meeting on November 9 in Cedar Rapids on arts advocacy. Stoffel and O'Connor will attend the Iowa Public Art Network meeting in Des Moines on November 12 and 13.

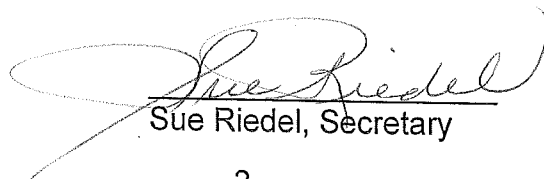
ADJOURNMENT

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 24 and will begin at 4:30 p.m. Motion by Riedel and second by Kohl to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Jan Stoffel

These minutes were passed and approved on _____


Sue Riedel, Secretary