

Minutes  
**ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
December 17, 2013  
Lacy Boardroom, Carnegie-Stout Library

**The special meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Henkels at 5:04 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.**

Commissioners present: Ellen Henkels, Katherine Kluseman, Jessica Teckemeyer and Julie Steffen. Sue Riedel, Gina Siegert and Marina O'Rourke were unable to attend. Staff present: Jerelyn O'Connor, City Manager Michael Van Milligen, Economic Development Director Maurice Jones  
Members of the public in attendance: Steve Silberman, Ali Levasseur

**Approval of Minutes of November 26, 2013.** A motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Teckemeyer to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS: Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Position**

City Manager Mike Van Milligen said he appreciated the Commission's willingness to have a special meeting. He said that although he understood the arts had an important impact, he didn't realize the scope of the economic impact of the arts until reviewing the economic impact study. The City Manager said he's been thinking about the position and exploring ways to create greater focus on the relationship of the Arts to economic development. He stated that the stars aligned with the retirement of Arts Coordinator Jan Stoffel and the hiring of Economic Development Director Maurice Jones. He stated that the positive direction of the arts initiatives is due to the work of the Commission, staff members O'Connor and Stoffel, and the commitment of the City Council. The new arts coordinator will staff the Commission with Maurice Jones interjecting himself as needed.

Steffen said she looks at the role of Neighborhood Development, Economic Development and Cultural Development. This shift creates new ways of thinking about the impact of the arts. Teckemeyer asked how this transition will change the job. Maurice stated that it makes it more comprehensive; we'll look at retaining jobs and attracting employees. Van Milligen stated that the job description doesn't change, although the change will fit in with the functions of the economic development department of helping existing businesses expand, attracting new businesses, and workforce development. Teckemeyer asked if this change will add new expectations, such as will Art on the River need to be profitable. Van Milligen said that is not the expectation. Henkels stated that she thought having the involvement of the Economic Development department will be positive.

**ITEMS FROM COMMISSION**

Henkels said that the upcoming Americans for the Arts Conference is in Nashville, June 13-15 and she encouraged other commissioners to attend if they have the opportunity.

**INFORMATION SHARING**

Ali Levasseur said that there is an opening for the exhibit Erotica at the Nash Gallery on Friday, December 20.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Henkels and second by Steffen to adjourn. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jerelyn O'Connor  
Neighborhood Development Specialist

These minutes were passed and approved on 2/4/14

  
Secretary