

Minutes

**ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

November 29, 2016

Lacy Boardroom, Carnegie Stout Public library

**The meeting was called to order by Susan Riedel at 4:31 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.**

Commissioners present: Mary Armstrong, Matthew Gregory, Ellen Henkels, Sue Riedel  
Gina Siegert

Commissioners Absent: Nicholas Bratcher, David Schmitz

Staff present: Debra Alleyne

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 28, 2016.** Motion to accept minutes with by Commissioner Siegert and seconded by Commissioner Gregory. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Art on the River Winter Edition 2017**

Coordinator Alleyne updated commissioners about Art on the River Winter Edition 2017 Snow Sculpting event scheduled for January 13 -15<sup>th</sup> of 2017. This will be a joint event with the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium for their annual Ice festival. The city manager has decided to bring the issue to City Council on December 5<sup>th</sup> for approval. The commission has expressed concern about whether there would be sufficient time for gathering sponsors and gleaning participation.

**2. Operating Support Grant Update:**

Commissioner Riedel sought clarification on the newly updated Operating Support grant and the timelines moving forward. She recapped the deadlines for Art on the River and Operating Support and Special Projects workshops and emphasized the importance of maintaining the schedule.

**3. Special Project Grants Update:**

Like the Operating Support Grants updated at the previous meeting, the commission agreed to simplify the application form with a rating system of 3-1 to replace the ten-point rating system. Lengthy discussion followed to discussing different aspects of the grant. The commissioners also agreed that uniqueness be highly prioritized on the Special Project grant. The commission made a point of specifying that uniqueness should not only relate to the programming but partnerships as well.

The commission on also wanted to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion in the Mission & Goals of the event and partnerships. Applicant would be required to address how they would demonstrate diversity, equity and inclusion from the planning to execution. Due to the extensive changes in the composition of the Special Projects grant; the new rating system; and the competitive nature of the

grant, the commission found attendance to the workshops to be essential. Points will be awarded to participants who have attended one of the scheduled workshops.

#### 4. Cultural Grants

Alleyne introduced the idea of being more intentional about including and recruiting cultural groups to apply for Special Projects grants. She illustrated that the bulk of granting funds went to fine and performing arts organizations that generally actively pursue granting funds. She noted that to adequately represent the title of the commission, Arts and Cultural Affairs, more of a concerted effort should be made to provide information to cultural groups about available grants or create a cultural granting scheme for cultural organizations and groups. Commissioner Siegert and Chair Riedel both recommended partnering with the Multicultural Family Center as a resource.

**Next meeting is December 13<sup>th</sup> @4:30 at the Bell Tower Theater.**

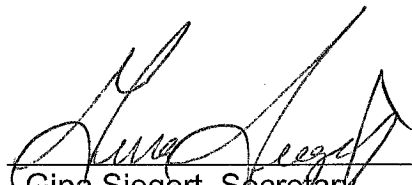
**ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Henkels made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Siegert. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted:  
Debra Alleyne  
Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

These minutes were passed and approved on

December 13, 2016.

  
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Gina Siegert, Secretary