



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 07, 2021
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Commission was held in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744.

The meeting was called to order at 3:52pm.

ROLL CALL:

Due to the chairperson being absent, there was a motion by Commissioner Zabinski and second by Commissioner Peterson to appoint Commissioner Merrild as acting chair for this meeting. All in favor, motion passed.

PRESENT

Commissioner Anne-Marie Erickson
Commissioner Ed Zabinski
Commissioner Gail Otteson
Commissioner Jennifer Gorman
Commissioner Myrna Peterson
Commissioner Sonja Merrild
Commissioner Tom Sippola

City Administrator Tom Pagel is also in attendance.

ABSENT:

Chairperson Kayla Aubid
Commissioner Kari Hedlund

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

There was no one from the public present at the meeting.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Request to add Agenda Item 8A, Meeting Frequency to the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Erickson and second by Commissioner Peterson to accept amended Agenda. All in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Zabinski and second by Commissioner Otteson to approve the minutes from July 6, 2021. All in favor, motion passed.

1. Approve minutes from Tuesday, July 6, 2021 regular meeting.

FINANCIALS:

2. Review current revenue/expenditure report

There is \$5,371 available for the rest of 2021. This is \$5,924 which is the carryover subtracting \$553.00.

BUSINESS:

3. Art Plan & Goal Setting

Administrator Pagel said that there is no update, no conversations with the middle school, high school and or ICC's Abby Blake. They will still try to contact these educational institutions. Administrator Pagel will get in touch with Lea Friesen and see if she still has interest in being a Consultant/Coordinator or possibly David Dobbs. No motion at this time.

4. Autonomous Vehicle Project

There are certain areas along the autonomous vehicle's route, that have a lack of structure, that the vehicle relies on to operate. Approximately 10 structural boxes will be made approximately from 2' cubes to 8' high, the High School's Stem Program and Career Pathways are going to make and paint them. There is a soft deployment scheduled for May and a hard one in June of 2022.

There is funding for Community Engagement/Involvement through non-profit organizations for an art liaison that would assist with this project. If not Lea Friesen, it could be someone else nonetheless it would be beneficial to other areas of the community. This position could be shared/employed with MacRostie with possible funding through the city stating that it would be a liaison to the City's Arts & Culture Commission.

Commissioner Zabinsky volunteered to have an exploratory meeting with Katy from MacRostie regarding an arts liaison.

5. Chalk Art

This item was dropped as the River Festival is this weekend and it can be deleted from the agenda.

6. Consider updates to guidelines for Mayor's Art Award.

Discussed the proposed changes to the Mayor's Art Award Eligibility Guidelines. The changes to the guidelines include but not limited to; making individual plural, adding "annual", adding adjacent townships to the location of residents, take Amy Dettmer's name out and add City Clerk, adding that the decision for the winning nomination will be provided by the the February meeting and the selection made at a subsequent meeting, the award will be presented at an

event selected by the Arts & Culture Commission, add to the last paragraph that an item of art produced by an area artist that highlights and finally change some grammatical errors in the document. The final changes will be sent to the City Clerk and City Administrator Tom Pagel will bring to the City Council for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Zabinski and second by Commissioner Gorman to approve the revisions of the Eligibility Guidelines for the Mayor's Art Award. All in favor, motion passed.

7. Consider possible role in Indigenous People's Day 2021

Discussion regarding Indigenous People's Day, City Administrator Tom Pagel stated that Lea Friesen, the Chair of the Human Rights Commission sees value in partnering with the Arts & Culture Commission. In the past, they have done various projects that could have been an opportunity for partnership.

This year, Indigenous People's Day is a month away and we are running out of time to be take part in the event. The sculpture intended for this year's unveiling will be ready for the 2022 Indigenous People's Day. There is concern about the sidewalk that people would walk on to see the sculpture. It is on the east side of the Pokegama Bridge and is in desperate need of repair and not slated for repairs until 2030, which is way too late. Possibly the Human Rights Commission can put in a word for its repairs as well. City Administrator Tom Pagel said he would contact MNDOT.

City Administrator Tom Pagel suggested that he would contact Human Rights Commission Chair Lea Friesen regarding a theme for next year, Celebrating Indigenous Art in the Community for 2022. Some examples to celebrate are Dewey's sculpture, the Water Protectors, the Lea Yellowbird mural on the Blandin Foundation, the Itasca Waters Foundation and the Canoe.

8. Consider information plates for Public Art.

As part of the Grant Agreement with AARP, we have to put a nameplate on Aaron Squadroni and Lea Yellowbird's Canoe. It is made of brass, the cost is approximately \$500.00 and it will have basic information on it. Nameplates are also needed for the Milligan's studio trio which are the three pieces of sculpture around town and also the bike path art by Greg Mueller, the Water Protectors and the Chickadee.

Regarding placement of the art that this Commission did, the largest piece across the street from Unwined was not originally supposed to be in that location. Eventually, it would be nice to have it moved to the backside of the berm of the brewery (east side of Pokegama lot area). City Administrator Tom Pagel said that there are possibilities that 1st Ave NE will cease to exist and it may eventually be a larger parking area, but there are no firm plans as of yet. There is another smaller piece that was placed in a space that is too large for it and it may need to be moved as well.

Speaking of murals, 30 yards from here (City Hall), there will be a huge wall on the west, could we speak to the County and ask about the possibility of the Commission's input on their new wall? Maybe some temporary banners without actually painting on the wall. City Administrator Tom Pagel will talk to the County.

8A. New Agenda Item - Meeting Frequency.

The suggestion is to consider meeting every other month instead of every month. We could try it for a year and see how it goes. The timeframe of the Mayor's Award will need to be changed if this is adopted. City Administrator Tom Pagel will check into the city's by-laws for their rules on the number of meetings per year. We can talk about it for the next meeting and unfortunately, virtual meetings are no longer available unless there is an emergency situation.

UPDATES:

9. Artist in Residence - David Dobbs

There is no update from David Dobbs.

10. Duane Goodwin Sculpture

City Administrator Tom Pagel talked to Duane Goodwin regarding the structures. There has been a delay for a year and they will hopefully be finished next year at this time. He will have some assistance with the heavy work of the sculptures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

3. Art Plan & Goal Setting
4. Arts Liason
5. Autonomous Vehicle Project
6. Meeting Frequency

UPDATES:

7. Artist in Residence - David Dobbs Update
8. County Update

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman