

**WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS  
Thursday, February 25, 2016.**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 25, 2016 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:30p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek(arrived at 5:31pm) Diane Boyd, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther, Gary Hammers, TJ Lechtenberg

Staff present: Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Superintendent of Parks Sally Ortgies, Parks & Recreation Secretary Sonya Coobs

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Hammers moved to approve the agenda. Luther seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

Austin Moore is the intern with the Parks and Recreation department this spring from UNI and was in attendance.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2015**

Crane moved to approve the minutes. Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

Luther asked when the Art Raut would be launched. Kenworthy stated it would be launched at the Des Moines Art Festival.

**On Item 4. Old Business**

**A. City Council letter follow-up**

Kenworthy thanked everyone for making the calls to the City Council. They all seemed to appreciate the direct calls and had positive feedback. Several Commissioners mentioned a few of the concerns and suggestions from the Councilmembers. Some of the items discussed were the Railroad Avenue corridor enhancement project, appropriating all the funds that are designated and donated, and any additional art activities in Valley Junction and different areas around the City. Kenworthy will follow up with Scott about the suggestions from the Councilmembers. Hammers would like a list of bullet talking points and a timeline to keep everyone on task and suggested the Art on the Campus Launch Party would be another opportunity to visit with Councilmen and educate them about the Master Plan and Strategic Planning process.

**On Item 5. New Business**

**A. Motion-Recommend approval of contract to Actual Size Artworks for *Art on the Trail***

Hansen introduced Sally Ortgies, Superintendent of Parks. Ortgies was on the Art on the Trail Selection Committee as the staff project leader and will continue as the project manager.

Lechtenberg reviewed the process for selecting the 3 finalists: Foster Wiley, Tom Stancliff and Actual Size Artworks. Leading up to the interviews and presentations, the information the committee had was limited to what was described in the proposals from the artists. Lechtenberg then described the different artists' approaches and presentations. Foster Wiley used cast concrete in a series of shapes and sizes relying on color tiles for the "WOW" factor. Wiley referenced historical, local and environmental topics. His ideas were very practical and durable. The committee felt there wasn't enough variety or visibility and works of art lacked scale. Tom Stancliff conveyed his conceptual ideas with an art history background. He proposed very intellectual

concepts tied into the environment with his “seed concepts” and local floral species. His craftsmanship was beautiful and meticulous. There was a lot to like with the concept but the commission was concerned with some of the pieces not being to scale. There were also concerns with practicality and safety issues with sharp edges. Stancliff spoke about the limestone that he would be using, and the committee was concerned that he was not being realistic with the cost of limestone. Gail Simpson and Aristotle Gerogiades from Actual Size Artworks presented their concept called Surrounds. Artwork’s presentation was very delightful. They had impeccable models to help the committee understand the concept. The sculptures were whimsical, good in scale, colorful, visible from afar, and interactive with the community. The community could vote on the animals that were to be used and have an opportunity to name them. They were very in touch with the placement and location of their sculptures. Lechtenberg stated it came down to Stancliff or Actual Size Artworks and the committee chose Actual Size Artworks for its upbeat and whimsical feeling. Ortgies and Lechtenberg explained where the sculptures would be located along the Jordan Creek Trail. Ortgies had observed during the presentation how the committee and artists were positively engaging. Luther thought the art would be inviting, and people would want to come back to see it again. Lechtenberg commended Jack Becker and Forecast Art for their assistance with the project. Kenworthy stated her concerns with the strength and substance of the poles. Lechtenberg commented that concern was mentioned at the meeting but that is a fabrication limitation. Becker will address concerns while the contract is still being negotiated. Hammers made the motion to recommend approval of a contract by the City Council for Actual Size Artworks for *Art on the Trail*. Sedlacek seconded. Motion approved. Ortgies explained the process going forward. Lechtenberg thanked the Commission for their support and for the experience of being able to go through the process.

## **On Item 6. Committee Reports**

### **A. Exhibition Committee**

April 28 is the date for the Art on the Campus Launch Party. Lechtenberg announced that Valley High School will be supplying students for the entertainment for the evening with a small donation for payment. The “Save the Date” cards will be going out around spring break. Hansen stated there would probably be 20-30 people coming from the Chamber. Sedlacek mentioned seeing an invitation to the entire public to come to the Launch Party in the WDM Magazine. Coobs will send out the invitation list to the Commission to go over and make changes.

### **B. Community Service Committee**

No Report

### **C. Trail Gateway Art Selection Committee**

Discussion in New Business

### **D. Communications Committee**

Hansen stated there was a draft done for the logo, and he would be sharing it with the committee when they meet next. Kenworthy would like to have the committee meet and decide on the logo before the March Commission meeting so it can be discussed and voted on. Hansen suggested that the committee might have to meet a couple of times on the logo before it is ready for publication.

**E. Art Raut Committee**

Crane has been attending frequent meetings preparing for the Greater Des Moines Art Raut. The progress that is being made is remarkable. Before sharing too much information, Crane would like to check with Greater Des Moines regarding the logistical information. Crane gave the actual route to the Commission and mentioned how it will be marked and very visible with circles and chevrons for “way finding” towards public art along the route. The designs for the crosswalks have not been determined. High quality and resistant materials are being used to last at least 5 years. GDM plans to have all of the markers applied before the Des Moines Arts Festival so it can be advertised. Luther asked where the donations were coming from and if the Commission would be donating. Crane stated that the donations were coming from the City of Des Moines and several corporate businesses. Crane mentioned the idea of him being on the committee was to hopefully lead to other cities doing something similar including West Des Moines. Kenworthy had the understanding that the Commission wanted to be involved this year by putting some of the route on Jordan Creek Trail or in Valley Junction. She thought there would need to be a financial contribution but then the Commission’s logo would be used as advertisement. Crane will find out and then coordinate with the printing professionals and capitalize on their schedule. Hammer would like this brought to a Historic West Des Moines Master Plan meeting to have the two groups discuss if it should happen and where.

**F. Historic West Des Moines Master Plan Committee**

Kenworthy has been forwarding the public meetings that have been held and anyone is welcome to attend. She stated up to this point there have been meetings, tours and discussions but it is really the consultant doing the talking. The next meeting March 10, there will be more sharing about the business and economic piece for the community. Public art in Valley Junction has been mentioned many times, and there is a lot of positive, exciting feedback about how it will be incorporated there in the future.

**On Item 7. Staff Reports**

**A. Superintendent of Recreation**

Hansen shared a flier regarding the City Sounds Project with the Des Moines Pianos. The Commission has been asked if they would be interested in doing something like this in the Valley Junction area. Hansen would like the Community Service Committee to discuss and present at the next meeting. This would run from May through October. The cost would be \$3,500 and City Sounds would be responsible for the maintenance of the piano.

**B. Superintendent of Parks**

No reports

**C. Director of Parks and Recreation**

No reports

**On Item 8. Other Matters**

Sedlacek has asked the artist, Mike Sneller to come and do maintenance on her personal art piece. She sent out an email to the Commission right before the meeting asking for their thoughts and interest in having the whole purchase and maintenance becoming a publicity piece with the media. The Commission would like the Communications Committee to pursue this with Sedlacek.

Crane stated how exciting it is to be a new member of the Commission and to have a project to point to with such a dynamic series of pieces.

**On Item 9. Receive, File and/or Refer**

**A. City Council Meeting Communications**

Luther moved to adjourn. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sonya Coobs  
Parks & Recreation Secretary

ATTEST:

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Diane Boyd  
Commission Secretary