

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, June 22, 2017

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Kenworthy.

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|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Commission | TJ Lechtenberg | Brenda Sedlacek <i>Secretary</i> | Tamara Kenworthy <i>Chair</i> | Ryan Crane <i>Vice Chair</i> | Rita Luther |
| Present | X | X | X | X | X |
| Commission | Diane Boyd | Jed Gammell | | | |
| Present | | X | | | |

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|----------------|--|--|--|
| Staff | Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i> | Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i> | Anna Poss <i>Administrative Secretary</i> |
| Present | X | X | X |

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda.

Luther moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried, 6 yes.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No Items

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2017 Meeting

Corrections to the minutes were provided by Luther and Kenworthy. Sedlacek moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gammell seconded. Motion carried, 6 yes.

On Item 4. Presentation – Sally Dix, Executive Director, Bravo Greater Des Moines

Sally Dix presented information on two grants offered by Bravo Greater Des Moines that may apply to the West Des Moines public arts program. The Capital Campaign and Projects Grant funds public art installations greater than \$10,000 in cost, with applications due in March. The Local Arts Program Grant provides funding for arts focused programs offered by non-arts organizations, with applications due late October. Dix encouraged the Commission to identify possible projects and present them to Bravo staff for feedback.

On Item 5. Old Business

No Items

New Business

On Item 6A. Motion – Approval of Call for Artists – 2018 Art on the Campus Exhibit

Lechtenberg stated that the Exhibition Committee recommends that the artist stipend be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Lechtenberg shared that by doing this the Committee hopes to draw more artists. Lechtenberg also stated that the People’s Choice award would gain more prestige by adding a monetary value to it and that the Committee is recommending a \$500 award. Another recommendation from the Committee is to gather a biography along with the artist’s application, so there can be more content about the artists included in publications. Lechtenberg added that changing the number of references to two is another modification to consider, and that the application process is proposed to be completely online so that information received from artists is more uniform. Crane added he liked the online application idea.

Ortgies shared stipend amounts offered by other communities. The City of Clive's stipend is \$1,000, and they have a requirement to purchase a piece every year with the stipend amount deducted from the purchase price. The City of Urbandale's stipend is currently \$1,200 and is being increased to \$1,500 next year. The City of Dubuque's stipend is also \$1,500. Gammell asked if the Commission saw an increase in activity when the stipend was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500. While the stipend was just raised last year to \$1,500, Kenworthy stated that an argument for raising the stipend again could be that \$2,000 would put us above everyone else drawing more attention. Crane stated that the difference between \$1,500 and \$2,000 wouldn't affect the Commission greatly but it could possibly mean a lot more to the artists. Gammell asked if the Commission has polled the artists on what stipend amount would be meaningful to them. Kenworthy noted that a poll has not been done.

Kenworthy stated that there has never been a specific theme for Art on the Campus and the subject matter has always been very open. Ortgies shared that she had a conversation with Jack Becker with Forecast Public Art about the Art on the Campus program. Becker said that having a theme is difficult with an exhibit such as Art on the Campus due to the works of art not being commissioned pieces. Becker also told Ortgies that increasing the stipend slightly may attract artists from out of state.

Crane inquired whether or not there has been a census taken on how many visitors come to the campus. Luther stated that next year there could be an effort to chart the traffic around the Art on the Campus.

Discussion was held on the merits of the People's Choice monetary award and concerns with the voting process. Crane stated that \$500 is a good monetary value. Ortgies stated that the People's Choice survey is set so only one vote can be cast per device. However, Kenworthy stated individuals can take it multiple times if using different devices. In 2016 one piece received 84% of the votes, but this year the votes are more evenly split among multiple artworks. Ortgies shared that a meeting will be set up with the Committee to discuss the execution of the voting process. Lechtenberg moved to approve the Call for Artists – 2018 Art on the Campus Exhibit with a \$2,000 stipend and a \$500 People's Choice Award. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried, 6 yes.

Committee Reports

On Item 7A. Events Committee

Kenworthy thanked the Committee and staff for a successful Art on the Trail dedication event.

On Item 7B. Communication Committee

Kenworthy asked that a meeting be set to discuss several topics. As a follow-up to Art on the Trail PR, Kenworthy asked if there has been information shared with the *West Des Moines Living Magazine*. Hansen replied that they set a yearly calendar with monthly themes. Kenworthy added that if a photo with a caption was sent to the West Des Moines edition of the *Des Moines Register* and the *Living Magazine*, they would probably include it. Ortgies stated that there will be a two-page spread in the West Des Moines Magazine on the Public Arts Commission and its activities.

On Item 7C. Exhibition Committee

Hansen shared that the Exhibition Committee is meeting Monday, June 26, at 1:30 p.m.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 8A.

Kenworthy shared that the Water Quality Community Service Public Art Project artist interviews will be held July 10th, 11th, 12th with the selection being made at the end of July. Three artists will be interviewed.

On Item 8B. Art Route

Ortgies shared that the Minor Modification application was submitted to the Development Services department. As soon as it's approved, the contractors can begin their work on the Art Route.

On Item 8C. Historic West Des Moines Public Art

Lechtenberg stated that the Call for Artists for the Valley Junction "Our Main Street" project went out recently, and the deadline for submittals is July 3rd, 2017.

Staff Reports

On Item 9A. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen thanked everyone for helping with the Art on the Trail dedication.

On Item 9B. Director of Parks & Recreation

Ortgies mentioned that the Solheim Golf Ball Art had been installed. There was some concern about the golf ball placed in front of City Hall because it says Wells Fargo on it and could be considered advertising on public property. Since the artwork is temporary, it was decided by staff to leave it in place. Ortgies shared that closer review of donated art before it is installed will be necessary in the future.

Receive, File and/or Refer

No Items

Luther moved to adjourn. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried. 6 yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Poss
Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Brenda Sedlacek
Advisory Commission Secretary