

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, February 23, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Brenda Sedlacek.

Commission	Brenda Sedlacek <i>Chair</i>	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Secretary</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Rita Luther
Present	X	X	X	X	X arrived at 5:34pm
Commission	Diane Boyd	Amenda Tate			
Present	X	X arrived at 5:36pm			

Staff	Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Ryan Penning <i>Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Allison Ullestad <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor</i>	Tina Tate <i>Secretary Parks & Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X	X	

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Phillips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Boyd seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2022 Meeting

Mathrubutham moved to approve the minutes as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 4. Old Business

No report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Allocation – Des Moines Art Week 2023

Ryan Hanser, Group Creative, and Susan Watts, Olsen-Larson Galleries, presented their fellowship concept for Des Moines Art Week 2023. Watts explained that once the artist/artist group (fellow) was identified for each designated neighborhood, that fellow would be the beacon for coordinating their vision for a community-focused piece. Group Creative is requesting that the Commission invests \$5,000 towards a fellowship stipend to include Valley Junction as the fifth Art Week neighborhood location which would be highlighted during the Valley Junction Farmers Market on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Rachel Buse, Des Moines Artist, discussed the success of the Big Head Parade held during Des Moines Art Week 2022. Buse stated that 300 people participated in the workshops leading up to the parade, including children from a West Des Moines summer camp. Funding also went towards paying 15 artists directly for the larger pieces. The structure this year will allow the artist freedom to determine what type of community engagement they will have. Ullestad clarified that this is considered temporary, participatory art and that the agreement would be with Group Creative, not directly with the artist.

Steve Frevert, Director of Valley Junction Foundation, stated while the Foundation did not contribute to this project last year, funding for future Des Moines Art Week will be requested. Frevert recognizes that there is a built-in audience during the Valley Junction Farmers Market that allows for great community engagement.

InvestDSM has committed to funding four Des Moines neighborhoods and artists that have already been selected and announced by Group Creative. Tate expressed concern about the selection process and how to make it accessible to all artists. It was recommended that a call for artists should be implemented for future selections.

Boyd moved to approve the allocation for Des Moines Art Week 2023 as presented. Phillips seconded. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Artist – Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project

Mathrubutham discussed the selection process conducted by the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Work Group. Hilde DeBruyne was selected because she provided detailed responses to the questionnaire that allowed the Work Group to see her vision for the piece.

Ullestad explained that CODAworx was used for the national RFQ because there were specific qualifications that the selected artist needed to display. The \$500 investment allowed for the call to be boosted twice. Mathrubutham mentioned that the search resulted in potentially identifying artists for future projects as well. Boyd recommended that the Exhibition Committee discuss adding another eligibility criteria in the RFQ or on the scoring rubric stating limits based on how recently a large, commissioned piece has been purchased. Penning stated that the Work Group's top choice of Hilde DeBruyne was unanimous.

Mathrubutham moved to approve the artist for the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project as presented. Boyd seconded. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

No Report.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

No Report.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

Ortgies stated that the Railroad Park Restroom Public Art Work Group has been established. Because there was no response from the Valley Junction Residents Association, it has been decided to move forward with the current members.

On Item 7B. DART Bus Shelter Public Art

No Report. Ullestad stated that the timeline will need to be confirmed with DART about bus shelter installations.

On Item 7C. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Ullestad mentioned that the BRAVO Public Art Grant will open on March 6th and a grant will be submitted for \$25,000 for this project by April 7th.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad stated that Art on the Campus will go to Council on March 6th for approval. Applications for WDMurals are due February 24th at 5:00 pm. BRAVO started a public art community group and has requested that Marnie and Allison speak about artist selection and community engagement at the next meeting on March 2nd. Ullestad announced that the Free Little Art Mart (FLAM) will be installed this spring at Peony Park by Public Services. The Master Plan was approved by Council and the Annual Report presentation was well received. Tim Stiles, Finance Director, requested copies of the PAAC Look Book to give to auditors and the finance department.

On Item 8B. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning updated the Commission on staffing changes. Melanie Perry, Naturalist, will retire at the end of February and the new Naturalist is scheduled to start in May. The Superintendent of Recreation will onboard in early April. Penning mentioned that spring/summer registration opens for West Des Moines residents on March 7th.

Ortgies explained that with the term ending in March for Diane Boyd, Rita Luther, and Brenda Sedlacek, there is a new process passed by the Park Board for selecting new members of the Commission. There were 8 applications received and 6 interviews scheduled. Once the interviews are held, recommendations will be made to Mayor Russ Trimble for the final selection.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Ullestad invited the Commission to attend the retirement party for Sally Ortgies which will be held on March 30th from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Nature Lodge.


Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

February 6, 2023 Resolution – Approval of Public Art Master Plan

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 3/23/23
Christina Tate
Secretary

ATTEST:
 3/23/23
Mahesh Mathrubutham
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary