

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, April 27, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Phillips.

Commission	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Secretary</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Vice Chair</i>	Amenda Tate	Ryan Crane	Virginia Barrette
Present	X	X	X-arrived at 5:34 pm	X	X
Commission	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
Present	X	X			

Staff	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Laura Murphy <i>Superintendent of 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	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Crane moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mathrubutham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2023 Meeting

Mathrubutham moved to approve the minutes as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4. Old Business

Ullestad provided an update on the fellowship project for Des Moines Art Week that was presented to the Commission in February by Group Creative, Susan Watts, Steve Frevert, and Rachel Buse. During that meeting, the Commission approved the allocation of \$5,000 for a fellowship stipend. To receive these funds, Group Creative needed to complete an agreement for professional consulting services outlining the scope of services, schedule of events, and schedule of fees. There was a discussion regarding the lack of communication and insufficient information provided to satisfy the requirements of the agreement. The Commission agreed that the stipend was approved as is for this year and in the future, there would be clearer expectations of details needed and artist selection.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Election of Officers

1. Chair- Tate nominated Mahesh Mathrubutham as Chair. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Vice Chair- Phillips nominated Amenda Tate as Vice Chair. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Secretary- Mathrubutham nominated Jeff Phillips as Secretary. Tate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Placement of Public Art – City Sounds Piano – Historic Valley Junction Foundation

Ullestad stated that the Historic Valley Junction Foundation provides all funding and maintenance for the City Sounds Piano. The Commission would just need to approve the proposed location because it is on public property. Phillips commented that this has been an engaging part of the community for years.

Phillips moved to approve the placement of Public Art - City Sounds Piano - Historic Valley Junction Foundation as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5C. Motion – Motion – Approval of Call for Artists – Railroad Park Public Art Project

Tate mentioned that during the second work group meeting, they discussed the Call for Artists verbiage, focusing on the project criteria and artist qualifications. Artist proposals will be requested upfront so the work group can see the artist’s idea for the project. Tate stated that the Call for Artists will be open to any artist or artist team located in the United States. Travel expenses would not be covered under any additional funding.

Ullestad explained that there were delays in this project due to filling vacancies in the work group. This group will select the artist, approve the proposal, and present their recommendations to the Commission for final approval. The goal is to complete the project by October 13th so an unveiling event could be held in conjunction with the Gallery Night in Historic Valley Junction.

Kitner moved to approve the Call for Artists – Railroad Park Public Art Project as presented. Phillips seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

No Report. Ullestad stated that the committees have not met and will now need to be restructured to include the new Commission members.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

No Report.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Ullestad stated that the selected artist, Hilde DeBruyne, has until May 3rd to submit the final proposal for the Public Art Sensory Wall which will be reviewed by the work group and then presented to the Commission for approval. Penning provided an update on the playground construction stating that the equipment installation has begun, and the final completion date will be in September or October. Ullestad added that the footing for the Sensory Wall was poured this week. Ullestad mentioned that the BRAVO grant for \$25,000 will be decided during the first week of June.

On Item 7B. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

Previously discussed the Call for Artists.

On Item 7C. DART Bus Shelter Public Art

No Report. Ullestad stated that the shelters are still waiting on approval to be constructed.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Strate introduced herself to the new members of the Commission as the Arts, Culture and Enrichment Coordinator and will be working with them in work groups and committee meetings. Ullestad stated that Art on the Campus is now installed. The contracts for WDMurals were approved by City Council. The selected underpass locations will be repainted in the next couple of weeks by Public Services. Free Little Art Mart (FLAM) in Peony Park was installed by Public Services and has been used by the public. The total cost of this project was around \$650 so this may be an option to install at other locations. Ullestad mentioned that the Commission may want to consider sponsoring a mural or public art for Illumifest held on September 23rd.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy joined the Parks and Recreation team on April 3rd. Murphy stated that Earth Day was a successful event with around 250 people in attendance. The Department is currently hiring a Food Services and Concessions Coordinator which is a full-time position that will manage concessions at the various locations. This posting will remain open through May 7th.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that Council approved the FY '23-24 Operating Budget which included an increase in the Public Art Fund to \$150,000 in June 2024.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Ullestad stated that maintenance funds will be used towards fixing some of the footings on *Progression* as well as straightening rods on *Frequency*.

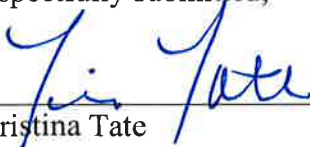
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On Item 10A. City Council Communications

April 17, 2023 Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2023 WDMurals

Tate moved to adjourn the meeting. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Tate
Secretary

5/25/23

ATTEST:



Jeff Phillips
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

5/25/2023