

**WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, May 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Mathrubutham.

<b>Commission</b>	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Chair</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Secretary</i>	Amenda Tate <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Virginia Barrette
<b>Present</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Commission</b>	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
<b>Present</b>		X			

<b>Staff</b>	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	Laura Murphy <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Allison Ullestad <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor</i>	Tina Tate <i>Secretary Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
<b>Present</b>	X	X	X	X		

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Phillips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No Report.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2023 Meeting**

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

**On Item 4. Old Business**

No Report.

**New Business**

**On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Appointments – Standing Committees and Project Work Groups**

Ullestad stated that members already assigned to a committee will now become the Chair of that respective Standing Committee to keep consistency. Tami Kitner will be added to the Communications Committee because of her interest in improving Call for Artists communication. Virginia Barrette will join the Events Committee because of her previous experience planning special events and art festivals. Courtney Moller will bring her perspective as an artist to the Exhibition Committee. Once the new Standing Committees are approved, meetings will be scheduled in the next couple of months.

Ullestad described the proposed Work Groups:

- Art on the Campus- Jeff Phillips/Courtney Moller
- RRP Playground-Mahesh Mathrubutham/Diane Boyd (Retired)
- Railroad Park-Amenda Tate
- WDMurals-Virgina Barrette/Tami Kitner
- DART Shelters-Ryan Crane/Courtney Moller

Phillips moved to approve the appointments of Standing Committees and Project Work Groups as presented. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mathrubutham stated that Hilde DeBruyne presented the final proposal to the Work Group during the previous meeting. The goal of the Sensory Wall was to allow a space for people, especially neurodivergent individuals, to find a calming area while still having an interactive experience with the art piece. DeBruyne was able to capture this directive by utilizing various textures, tactile effects, colors, and mirrors. For the connects and fidgets, DeBruyne is working with Kevin Conn, Landscape Architect, to incorporate prefabricated playground equipment for durability. The artist’s narrative statement intentionally ties in the metaphor of the river, how it’s never the same, and how every individual is different. Penning suggested that signage could include a QR code that will direct users to the website to learn more about the piece. Because the space is meant to be a calming area, there will not be an audio component. Therefore, Otocast was recommended as a way for users to hear about the piece through their own mobile devices. Ullestad added that the BRAVO Grant decision will be made in early June.

Phillips moved to approve the final proposal for the Raccoon River Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**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. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art**

Previously discussed in Item 5B.

**On Item 7B. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art**

Ullestad stated that the Call for Artists is due on Friday, June 2.

**On Item 7C. DART Bus Shelter Public Art**

Penning stated that he would follow up with Eric Petersen in Engineering who is overseeing the project.

**Staff Reports**

**On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor**

Ullestad updated the Commission on Art Week in West Des Moines. The fellow, Ramona Muse Lambert, has decided on two main components: Drawing Disco and Valley Junction Emerging Artist Pop-up. The Drawing Disco will occur on June 22 at Valley Junction Farmer’s Market where the public is invited to color, create costumes, and dance. The Emerging Artist Pop-up will feature new artists (ages 16-25) in an art exhibition sale. Certificates were created for each artist from the Public Art Advisory Commission for participating in this event.

Ullestad provided an update on WDMurals. This year, Public Services only received two bids to paint over the murals from last year and both came in over budget. After reaching out to the artists, seven out of nine needed to repaint. Those artists received an additional \$500 to repaint the walls themselves costing a total of \$3,500.

Ullestad and Strate met with J P Welding to discuss straightening the rods on *Frequency*. To avoid visual obstruction and keep people from bending the poles, Ullestad recommended that plexiglass be added to surround and protect the piece. Phillips expressed concerns about modifications made to the art piece without the artist's input. Ullestad had made several attempts to contact the artist about the repairs and hadn't heard back. Penning stated that the contract will be reviewed and one more attempt will be made before going forward with any changes.

**On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation**

Murphy stated that the aquatic centers open this weekend and are fully staffed. Park PALOOZA will kickstart the summer season on June 3rd at Raccoon River Park with the Mayor's Bike Ride beginning at 8:00 am. Events are beginning at the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater such as the Summer Sundaze Music Series and Moonlit Movies. Axios featured the Free Little Art Mart and how it engages people in different ways through art.

**On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation**

Penning stated that the RecPlex hosted the 2023 Cyclone Tailgate Tour. The 18-hole disc golf course at Southwoods Park will open in the middle of June. Construction is moving forward on the Athene Pedestrian Bridge with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2024.

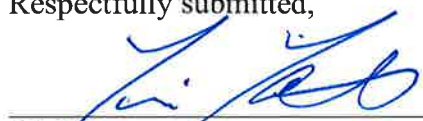
**On Item 9. Other Matters**

**Receive, File and/or Refer**

**On Item 10A. City Council Communications**

Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Christina Tate  
Secretary

6/22/23

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Phillips  
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

6/22/2023