

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, June 22, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Mathrubutham.

Commission	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Chair</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Secretary</i>	Amenda Tate <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Virginia Barrette
Present	X	X	X	X	X
Commission	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
Present		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>Administrative Assistant Parks & Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	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

M.J. Hoag, 413 2nd St., West Des Moines, recommended placing public art on the concrete wall that runs along 63rd Street near the Walnut Creek Levee located by Valley Junction. Hoag suggested that a school district or the public could paint a panel of the wall each year to give it some interest. Penning stated that he would confirm the location of the wall to determine whether it was West Des Moines or Des Moines property.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2023 Meeting

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

On Item 4. Old Business

No Report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Artist – Railroad Park Public Art Project

Tate reported that the work group recently met to evaluate the rubrics for the 16 submissions from the national artists/artist groups. Before reviewing the numbers, the group discussed the artists and then compared them with the scoring results. Daniel Perry from Waterloo, Iowa was selected as the proposed artist. Tate described the piece as combining lighting with dimensional metal powder-coated elements that will activate the space both during the daytime and at night. Ullestad stated that the artist's concept *Rising from the Prairie* will tell the story of Valley Junction and West Des Moines through sculptural murals representing the past and present while providing hints of the future. After the agreement is signed by the artist, it will go to City Council on July 5th for approval.

Tate moved to approve the artist for the Railroad Park Public Art Project as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Historic Valley Junction Foundation Application - #IowansUnite Community Contest

Ullestad stated that Steve Frevert with the Historic Valley Junction Foundation, contacted the Parks and Recreation Department to request participation in the #IowansUnite Community Contest. Contest rules state they must apply on behalf of the City. The Commission would need to give the Foundation permission to apply, and if selected, the art piece is slated to be placed on private property in Valley Junction approved by the property owner. Because the application is due by Friday, June 23rd at 5:00 pm, the Foundation plans to provide a video submission that was previously filmed. Finalists will be determined by a vote via social media which the Department could assist with.

Moller moved to approve the Historic Valley Junction Foundation Application- #IowansUnite Community Contest as presented. Tate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

Barrette stated that the Committee discussed promoting events well ahead of time. Crane added that they plan on working with Melissa Clarke-Wharff, Can Play Sports, to assist in inviting users of the playground to attend the Raccoon River Park Sensory Wall Unveiling. The date and time have not been selected yet. Ullestad stated that the playground completion is slated for September, however, the deadline given to the artist for the Sensory Wall is not until October. “Be You” was suggested as the theme for the party.

Ullestad updated the Commission on Marnie Strate’s project which will be a Youth Handmade Market held during Jingle in the Junction on Thursday, December 7th at the Valley Junction Activity Center. For \$20 per table, kids will sell any of their handmade goods to the public. This will encourage the youth to create art. Barrette suggested that she could use her connections to create a West Des Moines Art Fest possibly held on the same weekend as Des Moines Art Fest. This would provide an opportunity to elevate emerging artists. Ullestad suggested the RecPlex as a potential location because it would be minimal cost and could offer an indoor option such as a Winter Arts Fest. Tate cautioned that a winter festival might limit the selection to local people due to the weather. Tate recommended that the artists need to be juried and submit applications for approval to enter.

Ullestad asked if the Commission would like to sponsor art for Illumifest which will be held on September 23. Crane mentioned that a sidewalk chalk artist was previously discussed. Ullestad will contact one of the mural artists who also creates sidewalk chalk art to check on availability.

The Railroad Park Unveiling Event was originally planned for October 16th during the Gallery Night. However, due to a scheduled Council Meeting that evening, attendance by dignitaries may be limited.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

Moller stated that the Committee discussed incorporating augmented reality at the MidAmerican RecPlex. For the WDMurals budget, an additional \$500 would be included as an option for artists to repaint their walls. Phillips expressed concern about artists that may need to travel to prep their space.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

No Report.

On Item 7B. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art
No Report.

On Item 7C. DART Bus Shelter Public Art
No Report.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad updated the Commission on the status of repairing *Frequency*. The artist did respond and approved those changes to be made. The surveys for the WDMurals have provided great feedback showing that the public continues to want more murals. The Free Little Art Mart sign was stolen at Peony Park. One of the plaques on Even Water was removed from the base and stolen and another fell off. Both of the plaques have been replaced.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation
No Report.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation
No Report.


On Item 9. Other Matters

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Crane moved to adjourn the meeting. Phillips seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 10/26/23
Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

 10-26-2023
Jeff Phillips
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary