

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, October 26, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 5:31 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
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>Administrative Assistant Parks & Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X		

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

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

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

Steve Frevert, Historic Valley Junction Foundation, expressed that the community leaders would like the Commission to consider placing a public art piece or marker commemorating the historic neighborhoods formerly located southwest of 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. Penning stated that Eric Doll, Park Planner, has discussed different ideas to incorporate the history of Valley Junction into the Raccoon River East Greenway Master Plan. Ullestad explained the lengthy process of commissioning a new permanent art piece. Dr. Vicki Long Hill, 136 10th St., and Rachelle Long, 106 11th St., discussed the importance of recognizing this neighborhood and sharing the stories of the residents who once lived there. The collection of stories called *Across the Tracks* is preferred to be told in the form of a public art piece rather than a marker.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2023 Meeting

Kitner 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 Recommendation to City Council – FY24-25 Public Art Fund Budget

Penning provided an overview of the FY24-25 Public Art Fund Budget. The maintenance fund is 10% of the total permanent collection which includes the two recently added pieces, *Confluence* and *Progression*. There was an increase in the budget for WDMurals artist fees and wall prep because the artist is now responsible for repainting their surface. The WDMurals Best in Show is raised to \$500 to be consistent with Art on the Campus. The total allocated amount for the Commissioned Work of Art #5 is \$100,000. Consulting fees for the Commissioned Work of Art #6 will be \$10,000. Mathrubutham inquired about the status of the DART shelters. The budgeted funds will continue to roll over until a decision is made on this project. Penning mentioned a couple of revenue sources

including increasing Hotel/Motel Tax to \$150,000 and receiving the \$29,000 BRAVO grant for the Raccoon River Park Sensory Wall. The budget will be submitted by October 26 and approved in March 2024.

Ullestad reminded the Commission that the Public Art Master Plan shows that five pieces should be installed by the end of 2027. Consulting may be used to help with the upcoming larger commissioned art pieces.

Crane moved to approve the recommendation of the FY24-25 Public Art Fund Budget to City Council as presented. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of 2024 Art on the Campus Selection Committee

Ullestad stated that the only change from the previous year is that Courtney Moller is replacing Mahesh Mathrubutham on the Committee. There are around 30 submissions that need to be reviewed.

Phillips moved to approve the 2024 Art on the Campus Selection Committee as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5C. Motion – Establish November/December Meeting Date

Ullestad stated that the Executive Committee suggested November 30 or December 14. After discussion, the Commission agreed to select December 14 as the meeting date.

Crane moved to approve the November/December meeting date as December 14. Moller 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. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

Ullestad shared that the artwork is still in the fabrication process. A date for the unveiling will be determined depending on the completion of the piece and in conjunction with Jingle in the Junction.

On Item 7B. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Ullestad provided an update on the Raccoon River Park Sensory Wall. Hilde DeBruyne has held two sessions with the Least of These Foundation at Kunzler Studio to work on clay tile impressions. Because the acrylic panels have not arrived from Colorado, the framing has been delayed. The unveiling will likely occur in April to coincide with Autism Appreciation Month.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad stated that Art on the Campus submissions are due October 27. The Executive Committee decided that the theme would be *Our Stories* for the 2024 WDMurals. With this theme, artists could tell stories of diversity, history, or books. Eric Feinstein will be presenting the new features for Otocast on

November 9 at City Hall. Ullestad encouraged the Commission to attend the Youth Handmade Market held on December 7 at the Valley Junction Activity Center.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy provided a staffing update that Marnie Strate, Arts, Culture, & Enrichment Coordinator, has accepted a position at Des Moines Performing Arts. The sports fields, pickleball, and shelters are all finishing up the rental season. The Winter/Spring Program Guide has been mailed with registration opening on November 7.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that the Raccoon River Park Playground Ribbon Cutting was held on October 14 in conjunction with Raccoon River Rally and was well attended. Penning added that he received positive feedback from the public about the playground's design and accessibility. With the FY24-25 budget due this week, the Department is reviewing opportunities for cost savings and generating more revenue.

On Item 9. Other Matters


No Report.

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Crane moved to adjourn the meeting. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

2/22/2024

ATTEST:



Jeff Phillips
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

2/22/2024