

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, February 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 22, 2024, 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-arrived at 5:38 p.m.
Commission	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
Present	X-arrived at 5:32 p.m.	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>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	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

No Report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2023 Meeting

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

On Item 4. Old Business

No Report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Presentation – ICON Waterway Trails

Amy Saylor, Community Investment Specialist with BRAVO Greater Des Moines, and Cole Miller, Regional Coordinator for ICON Water Trails, presented ideas for public art pieces that will complement the *Hello, River* installation in downtown Des Moines. In 2019, BRAVO launched public art grants to fund projects specifically designed for government partners to support comprehensive art plans. This included a partnership with ICON Water Trails and Group Creative that would provide public art on water trail access points resulting in the *Hello, River* project. The grant program was expanded to a third year to allow for the preparation of the access sites. Saylor explained that the City of West Des Moines can apply for this grant and install an art piece unique to that area. The other option would be to select a piece from the *Hello, River* menu designed by the artist Plus/And. These include pieces like a large/small listener, light beacon, bench, swing, library, or a plaque. They would connect to the larger waterway story through structural design and the iridescent finish. The application for the ICON grant opens on March 4, 2024, with a deadline of April 5. Crane suggested that Raccoon River Park would be a potential location for this artwork due to the geographic and natural connection. Saylor stated that the artist will allow these options to be available for years to come.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Allocation – Des Moines Art Week 2024

Group Creative requested a \$7,000 sponsorship for Art Week Des Moines that would come from the Unexpected Opportunities line item in the FY 23-24 Public Art Fund budget. From this total, \$5,000 would be the artist/fellow stipend. The remaining \$2,000 would be allocated for administrative fees. Rachel Buse, Group Creative, and Diane Kunzler, Kunzler Studio, proposed their Pottery Olympics concept for Des Moines Art Week 2024. This event would consist of different competitions that showcase basic and advanced ceramic skills. There would be a variety of participants including scheduled artists, requested guests, and the general public.

Mathrubutham addressed the previous years working with Group Creative and recognized that they are an artist-centric group that is involved in the community. The concern lies with the group organizers not using a Call for Artists for the artist selection process. The goal of the Public Art Advisory Commission is to identify the artist through standard policies and procedures and provide funding for the project directly to the artist. The Commission would like to support Art Week Des Moines if the project follows the guidelines stated in the Public Art Master Plan. Buse stated that if the Commission would like to submit a project to Art Week Des Moines, it would need to be entered by May 1. Due to the limited timeline, Tate mentioned that the Youth Handmade Market could be a way to be involved because it is scheduled during the same week.

Penning stated that the Commission provides more than just the permanent art collection such as WDMurals and Art on the Campus. Art Week Des Moines could be another opportunity if proper procedures were followed. This involves the Commission receiving ideas and having them vetted through the process. Tate commented that workgroups are critical to identifying the artist and project. Kunzler suggested the verbiage in the Call for Artists should be focused on project and community instead of directed towards established artists. Mathrubutham mentioned that when structuring the call, the workgroup reviews the project and tailors the criteria to fit.

Kitner moved to approve the allocation of funds for Des Moines Art Week 2024 as presented. Crane seconded. 1 yay, 6 nays. Motion was not approved.

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

Penning stated that Ullestad is communicating with the artist, Hilde De Bruyne about completing the installation in April which is also National Autism Acceptance Month. The Event Committee will be discussing the details of the unveiling in their next meeting.

On Item 7B. Commissioned Artwork #5

No Report.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

No Report.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy updated the Commission on the Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coordinator position. Lauren Rush has accepted the position and will start on March 25. A few of the spheres in *Progression* are sinking. The repairs will be addressed with warmer weather. The WDMurals Call for Artists deadline is Friday, February 23. Ullestad is currently working on Art on the Campus for City Council approval. Registration opens for our Spring/Summer Program Guide on March 5 for West Des Moines residents and March 12 for non-residents.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning will share the Parks and Recreation Annual Report with the Commission. This report celebrates some of the successes from the previous year. Penning will present at the Budget Workshop on Saturday, February 24 reflecting on last year as well as highlighting goals for next year. Penning mentioned that the Department has been creative with alternative funding for large projects through public/private partnerships. The City has shown support with staff recommending the approval of funding for all submitted supplemental requests and 18 Capital Improvement Program projects.

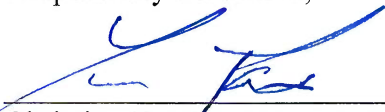
On Item 9. Other Matters

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Tate moved to adjourn the meeting. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

7/25/2024

ATTEST:



Jeff Phillips
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

7-25-24