

**WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 28, 2024, 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
<b>Commission</b>	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
<b>Present</b>	X	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>Administrative Assistant Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	Lauren Rush <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**

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

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No Report.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2024 Meeting**

Kitner 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 Artists and Artwork Locations – 2024 WDMurals**

Barrette commented on the selection process and suggested implementing an electronic scoring system to automatically populate the final totals. This would streamline the process for staff. Penning stated that there were 34 proposals submitted and of the nine selected, seven were new artists. The winner of last year’s Best in Show Award, *Murmuration*, will remain in place for the 2024 exhibit. Penning stated that the proposed locations were picked strategically for each mural. In previous surveys, the public has requested more locations so expansion is being considered for future exhibits. Murphy mentioned that one of the selected murals will be painted by Commission Member, Courtney Moller. Mathrubutham added that blind judging is implemented to ensure a fair voting process.

Crane moved to approve the 2024 WDMurals Artists and Artwork Locations as presented. Barrette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**On Item 6A. Events Committee**

Penning stated the Events Committee met before the meeting to plan the Raccoon River Park Sensory Wall unveiling. Crane mentioned there was discussion about the event details and expanding the invitations to include the people who will be utilizing the space. Because April is Autism

Appreciation Month, there will be messages focused on autism to increase awareness. Barrette added that the unveiling is scheduled for April 23, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Raccoon River Park. Penning mentioned that there was also some discussion about an alternative to Des Moines Art Week that will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

**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**

No Additional Report.

**On Item 7B. Commissioned Artwork #5**

Penning stated that an application for a BRAVO grant is being submitted requesting \$60,000, half of the project cost for Commissioned Artwork #5. A potential location for this public art piece is Legacy Woods which is land recently acquired by the City that is being developed into a nature sanctuary and with the possibility of a Heritage Center facility. Through public/private partnerships, one million dollars has already been raised for this project.

**Staff Reports**

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

Murphy introduced Lauren Rush as the new Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coordinator. Rush stated that she is bringing her event planning experience with Story County Olympics and military base events to this position.

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

Murphy stated that Mark Brewick received the Slattery/Trueblood Professional Award during the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Conference. Registration for summer programs has opened and shows continual revenue growth. Any open seasonal and intermittent positions are posted on the website and people are encouraged to apply.

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

Penning stated that the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Conference provides the opportunity to network and reflect on the accomplishments of our department in comparison to other cities. The City has shown support for the Parks and Recreation Department initiatives and appreciates how the quality of life is enhanced for West Des Moines residents.

**On Item 9. Other Matters**


Dr. Vicki Long Hill, West Des Moines resident, spoke about how she supports public art and is excited to see what will be planned for future projects.

**Receive, File and/or Refer**

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


Crane moved to adjourn the meeting. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Christina Tate  
Administrative Assistant

7/25/24

ATTEST:

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

7-25-24