

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, April 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 25, 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
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>	Lauren Rush <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X		

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Moller 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 March 28, 2024 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 – Election of Officers

1. Chair- Mahesh Mathrubutham was nominated and accepted the position of Chair.
2. Vice Chair-Amenda Tate was nominated and accepted the position of Vice Chair.
3. Secretary-Virginia Barrette was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary.

Crane moved to approve the election of officers as presented. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

Penning thanked the Events Committee for planning the unveiling of the Raccoon River Park Playground Sensory Wall. The event was well attended and publicized through Channel 8 News. Ullestad added that a copy of the children’s book *What is River?*, which was the artist’s inspiration, will be donated to the West Des Moines Library on behalf of the Public Arts Commission. It will include Hilde DeBruyne’s autograph and a description of the art piece.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

Ullestad stated that \$10,000 is budgeted for a piece to be purchased from the 2024 Art on the Campus exhibit. A piece hasn't been purchased in two years.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project

Ullestad stated that DeBruyne provided care recommendations for the piece. Certain elements will need to be monitored to ensure they withstand the use and comply with playground safety standards. Because the artist is local, it will be easier to coordinate those adjustments and maintenance requirements. A plaque will be added that states no climbing on the art piece and will also provide links or QR codes directing the public to information about neurodivergence.

On Item 7B. Legacy Woods Public Art Project

Ullestad informed the Commission that the application was submitted for the BRAVO grant. Ullestad suggested forming a work group of at least five individuals, including two Commissioners, for this project. These members can be selected from the list of people who have requested to serve on the work group or recommendations from the Commission members. Because there is more time needed for the development of the Legacy Woods project, there is less urgency for the completion of the public art piece.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad mentioned that the Art on the Campus exhibit has been installed and the information about each piece is published on the website. Artists will soon begin the installation of their murals for the 2024 WDMurals exhibit. Cat Rocketship and Dani Awesome had accepted but were unable to participate due to a conflict so the next artist with the highest score was contacted and accepted.

Staff is still working with the artist on a solution to prevent the *Progression* spheres from tipping each year. The water temperature needs to be warmer to adjust the placement this year. The first Youth Handmade Market is scheduled during Des Moines Art Week on June 13 at the Valley Junction Activity Center. There are five spots left to fill for this date. The second Youth Handmade Market is on August 15 and is full. Because of the interest in these markets, they may be expanded in the future to include adults as well. Mathrubutham suggested that the Commission provide certificates to the artists to encourage their participation in the arts.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy discussed the Earth Day Family Fun event on April 20 at Raccoon River Park. There was a great turnout despite the cold weather. Naturalist, Jess Lancial, coordinated Earth Day park and trail cleanups that were completed throughout April. Leagues and tournaments have started at Raccoon River Park Softball Complex and Holiday Park Baseball and Softball Complexes. The new in-house concessions opened at Raccoon River Park. The swimming pools are currently being filled in preparation for the aquatic centers to open on May 25. Murphy mentioned that there are still seasonal positions available, and people are encouraged to apply online.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that the budget was approved on April 15. Because of the support from the City Council and Management Team, 18 CIP projects were approved. There are three playground projects currently underway. The City Council places a high priority on quality-of-life improvements for residents.

On Item 9. Other Matters

M.J. Hoag, West Des Moines, suggested installing a mural near Pearson Park.

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

April 1, 2024-Motion-Approval of Artists and Artwork Location-2024 Art on the Campus

April 15, 2024-Motion-Approval of Artists and Artist Locations-2024 WDMurals

Crane moved to adjourn the meeting. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 8/22/24

Christina Tate

Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

 8-22-24

Virginia Barrette

Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary