

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

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, July 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 <i>Secretary</i>
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>	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

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

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No Report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2024 Meeting

Crane 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 Work Group – Legacy Woods Public Art Project

Ullestad stated that the total budget for the Legacy Woods Public Art Project is \$170,000. This includes \$50,000 from the BRAVO public art grant, \$20,000 budgeted for consulting, and \$100,000 for the artwork. Ryan Crane and Jeff Phillips agreed to serve as the Commissioners on the Work Group. Barrette recommended Heather Worthington, an art teacher at Lincoln who is very involved in the community. Because of the property’s historical component, Council member Greg Hudson, Valley High School History Teacher, and Gale Brubaker, Executive Director of the West Des Moines Historical Society, were also nominated. Ullestad noted that although state law requirements have changed, gender balance guidelines will still be followed for work groups and selection committees.

Kitner moved to approve the Legacy Woods Public Art Project Work Group as presented. 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. Legacy Woods Public Art Project

Ullestad presented on the Legacy Woods Project, highlighting the timeline of land ownership. The City of West Des Moines will acquire full ownership of the nearly 30 acres of the Legacy Woods property once the West Des Moines Historical Society transfers the final three acres in Fall 2024. The Jordan House Museum will remain under the West Des Moines Historical Society. The City retains ownership of Oak Hill Cemetery.

The concept of Legacy Woods was developed through a collaboration of the City of West Des Moines, the West Des Moines Historical Society, and private donors. Ullestad updated the Commission on the Nature Sanctuary, Oak Hill Cemetery, and the Historic Campus which are the three areas detailed in the Legacy Woods Master Plan. Ullestad noted that public art was not placed in a specified location because the piece is still being conceptualized. Due to the scope of the project, there is an opportunity to have multiple pieces and artists. Augmented reality was suggested as an interactive modality to highlight the historical aspect of the location.

The initial phase consisted of the demolition of 14 buildings throughout the property. Penning stated that \$2,000,000 was contributed by the City to purchase the land. The private sector has raised over \$1,000,000 in donations and is actively fundraising. Ullestad added that the City is also supporting the project by applying for various grants. The project will progress as funds become available. The next phase will include an archeological survey, the installation of utilities, and grading of the land.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad stated that jurors will be selected to vote on the WDMurals and Art on the Campus exhibits. Certificates were presented to the participants of the Youth Handmade Market. There are two additional markets scheduled this year. Ullestad encouraged the Commission to attend Summer Sundaze and Moonlit Movies.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

No Report.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that registration opens on August 6 for the 2024 Fall Program Guide. Modifications were made to the Raccoon River Park Sensory wall due to playground safety requirements. A few of the spheres in *Progression* are still sinking. They have filled with water and need to be removed and drained. The artist has been contacted to determine a more permanent solution.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Tate 8/22/24
Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST: Virginia Barrette 8-22-24
Virginia Barrette
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary