



Des Moines Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2018 • 6:00 p.m.
Beach Park Dining Hall

Present: Sheri Verburg, M. Anne Sweet, Fred Andrews, Patricia Clark, Alfonso DeAnda, Nicholas Fannin, Marcus Williams, Patrice Thorell, Shannon Kirchberg, Luisa Bangs, Susan Cezar.

Absent: Michelle Fawcett (excused).

Guest: Beverly Reich.

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Chair Sheri Verburg.

Minutes Approval

May 2018 minutes were presented for review. *Clark moved to approve the minutes as presented. DeAnda seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.*

Budget Report

Kirchberg will send out budget information when it is available.

Meet/Interview Potential New Commissioner

Beverly Reich has applied to fill the DMAC position that was vacated when Ekk Sisavetdy resigned. Reich stated that she sees the arts as “putting the civil into civility” and wants to be involved. She has a background in theatre and believes that the arts are important to the fabric of the community. She also has a background in editing and is a resident at Wesley Des Moines. Commissioners summarized DMAC’s various functions and events, including the Summer Concert Series, the Arts Gala, Squid-A-Rama, Wine and Art Walks, Shakespeare in the Park, and the Seattle Symphony. Reich was thanked for attending the meeting and then excused.

After discussion, Clark made a motion that we recommend Reich be appointed to fill Sisavetdy’s remaining term. Sweet seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Marketing/Social Media

Williams reported that there was no marketing plan yet, although it was about 85 percent complete. He will e-mail it for review, hopefully by the end of the week. The Paint Night promotion received 2,300 impressions and resulted in additional sales of 16-17 tickets. The cost of the promotion was \$100. Facebook had received 376 engagements, plus 17 new “Likes.” This is a little behind the goal, but should pick up from the summer concerts.

Summer Concert Series

Kirchberg reported that one food truck is still needed. Nibbles is no longer in business and Anthony’s food truck will not arrive in time. A survey for use at the concerts is in the works. A script for concert leads to use when introducing the bands will be provided. A large roll of butcher paper has been purchased for coloring at the kids’ art table. Some supplies are still available from last year. Bubbles,

corn hole, and other games were suggested and may be available. DeAnda volunteered to monitor the kids' table at every concert except for July 18, when he will be out of town.

Arts Gala

Clark reported that it is coming along and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Auntie Irene's.

Squid-A-Rama/Reef Art Project/Sculpture Project/Anita Corby Mural

Andrews reported as follows.

Squid-A-Rama: An e-mail to teachers for next fall goes out at this time and has been sent, seeking squid-centric art from the schools. Last year 150 pieces were turned in, of which 48 were included in the exhibit. He is working on a video and he has contacted the MaST Center.

Reef Art Project: The final presentation was made on April 30. Senator Karen Kaiser, among others, attended. The UW class is putting together a book with the proposal for their extensive plan. On June 26, there will be a meeting with the Puyallup Tribe, regarding necessary permits with the City, the Tribe, etc. The Washington Scuba Alliance is handling the permitting. The proposal is for a park-like design with a pathway for divers, not art per se. The idea is to create a set design, wherein the divers are the observers. At this time they are getting input from divers, MaST, etc. DMAC will be involved later and will have input on whatever happens artistically. The project will include clean up of an old car, swing sets, tires, etc.

Art on Poverty Bay: The ribbon-cutting was a success. The booth was good and in a good location. Some plinths are still in progress.

Anita Corby Mural: Written approval has been received from Corby for DMAC do as it sees fit with the mural. The plan is to cut up and save the usable parts of it and donate those to the Arts Gala to be auctioned off. Perhaps two of the pieces will be given to the artists. As one idea for replacing the mural, Andrews has been communicating a nonprofit group called Urban Artworks, which works with kids off the streets to create street art projects. They have been around since 1995, and the artists work in teams or as individuals. DMAC would contract with them to create and design the mural, with DMAC input; then we would install it. Estimated cost is \$5,000. Andrews will present samples of their work.

Paint Night Fundraiser

The event sold out with 40 participants, and \$600 was raised. The Paint Night people loved the building (the Dining Hall) and they want to do it again, perhaps on a regular basis.

July/August Meetings

DMAC meetings will remain on the same second Monday schedule.

First Saturdays at Des Moines Farmers' Market

There was discussion regarding having a DMAC table and presence at the Farmers' Market on the first Saturday of the month. Sweet volunteered to do August in order to promote Shakespeare in the Park; Clark volunteered to do September to promote the Arts Gala; DeAnda may possibly be able to do July. Kirchberg and Verburg will confirm that we can have a booth, with the suggested timeframe of 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

12 Minutes: 1 Minute Commercial Around the Room

Thorell: This being her last meeting prior to retiring, she was asked for her “final download.” She advised that commissioners continue to go forth and meet their mission and goals and expressed confidence that the group would continue to do so.

Fannin: Asked the group to consider what other building(s) might have a wall for a mural or piece of art. He also suggested yoga in the park on an ongoing basis on Saturday or Sunday. It was noted that the Park Run already takes place on Saturdays, funded by the Legacy Foundation at \$5,000 (no charge to participants). It was also noted that there would need to be a contract and insurance in place. Fannin noted that he had spoken with someone who was interested in leading the yoga group and that it might take a couple of years to grow the event. *[It was later noted that the yoga group would probably fall under Parks Department activities, rather than DMAC.]*

Williams: Nothing at this time.

DeAnda: Nothing at this time.

Andrews: Thanks to Thorell for all of her work over many years, and also noted her kindness and intelligence, among many other good qualities.

Sweet: Reminded that all are invite to the Preview Party for the Equine Art Show coming up on Thursday, July 12, at Emerald Downs. The art will also be on view during live racing, Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon of that weekend.

Clark: Advised Thorell that she needs to learn how to say “no,” now that she is retiring.

Bangs: Dittoed what Andrews had said about Thorell and added that Thorell had been a mentor to many commissioners and others and has given a lot.

Kirchberg: Will express her thoughts later.

Cezar: Noted that she has enjoyed and will continue to enjoy Thorell’s passion, energy, well-run department and humor.

Verburg: Noted the Thorell’s light is so bright that “we will find you” and that we’re not saying good-bye.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m., followed by a party and celebration in Thorell’s honor.