



**Des Moines Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2018 • 5:30 p.m.
Beach Park Dining Hall**

Present: Sheri Verburg, Michelle Fawcett, M. Anne Sweet, Fred Andrews, Jerry Farmer, Marcus Williams, Shannon Kirchberg, Susan Cezar.

Absent: Alfonso DeAnda (excused), Nicholas Fannin (excused), Luisa Bangs (excused).

Guests: Mayor Matt Pina.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Sheri Verburg.

Minutes Approval

Minutes for the September 2018 meeting were presented. *It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.*

Des Moines Mayor Matt Pina was on hand to present two offers that had been made to the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Arts Commission.

Maury Island Incident Mural

The City and DMAC have been offered the Maury Island Incident mural, formerly located in the City of Burien. *After discussion it was moved and seconded to accept the mural, with the stipulation that there be no acquisition cost involved. The motion was unanimously approved.*

From the B-town Blog:

“The Maury Island Incident” Mural has found a new home – in Des Moines

During the filming of the award-winning film “The Maury Island Incident,” a local artist named Nancy Pahl was commissioned by Executive Producer John White to create a mural that visually described the historic local 1947 UFO story. The movie was filmed in Olde Burien, Des Moines, Tukwila and off the shores of Maury Island.

The mural, which was located on the east side of a building at 901 SW 152nd Street in Olde Burien, has been used by many UFO buffs around the world to describe what happened – an historic 1947 UFO sighting, the first record of a Man-In-Black (and his brand new black Buick), along with the US Air Force B-25 airplane that took the so-called disc artifacts, then caught on fire and crashed near Kelso.

The building was purchased recently, and so the mural had to come down. But it has a new home, according to White. “I just agreed to give it to Des Moines – free of course,” White said. The exact location has yet to be determined.

Historic Countertop

The City and DMAC have also been offered a solid wood countertop that measures 14 feet by 2 ½ feet by 1 ½ inches. The Rudberg family owned the town's grocery store for many years, and they have a large amount of history that they are giving to the Historical Society. One of the items is the old growth timber countertop.

Andrews reported that it is in pretty good shape. Mayor Pina noted that it represents Des Moines lumber history. It was milled over 100 years ago, smooth on top and rough cut on the bottom. It has historical value as it is from one of the mills formerly in Des Moines. A similar slab has been given to a museum.

Andrews suggested that it could be used to carve a timeline. It is a gift, at no cost and no strings attached. The current owner would like to have it moved quickly. He also has a second slab that is being used as a workbench. He may be interested in donating that slab also. We would need to move one or both pieces, which would require bodies and a truck.

Mayor Pina and Cezar noted that if we want it, the City would figure out how to get it, and this would not out of the DMAC budget. *It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that we will accept the countertop or both countertops, if both are available.*

Budget Report

Kirchberg presented a spreadsheet of current income and expenses. She noted that info for the 4Culture grant payout of \$7,500 has been submitted. The 4Culture grant application for 2019-20 has also been submitted.

DMAC funds that are being held by the Legacy Foundation were discussed. Cezar stated that she would work on composing a letter from the City requesting the funds for DMAC. The Legacy Foundation was originally created to support Des Moines Parks and Recreation. However, there had been a verbal commitment from Legacy that money from the Arts Gala would be for DMAC projects.

2019 DMAC Officers

Williams was nominated as chair for 2019. *Following a unanimous vote, Williams was elected as chair for 2019.*

Fawcett was nominated as vice chair for 2019. *Following a unanimous vote, Fawcett Williams was elected as vice chair for 2019.*

No nominees for Secretary were received. Sweet could not commit to running for Secretary for 2019 because she had not decided if her schedule would permit her to request reinstatement for a new term as an arts commissioner. The vote for the position of Secretary was tabled.

It was noted that Andrews' term is also expiring at the end of 2019, as is Verburg's. Verburg had already informed the commission of her intent to step down from DMAC for a year. It was requested that letters requesting reinstatement to DMAC should be sent to City Clerk Bonnie Wilkins by the end of October.

2019 DMAC Budget

The first reading of the City of Des Moines budget will be at the City Council meeting on October 18. The final budget will be approved in November. The Council has committed \$55,000 to DMAC for 2019. DMAC has control of the budget, but location of projects or other logistics relating to legalities and/or maintenance for specific projects may be subject to City approval when it comes to the use of City money. Cezar will provide communication between DMAC and City Manager Michael Matthias and Chief Operations Officer Dan Brewer.

2019 Project Proposals

Replacement Mural (Andrews) – The mural in the south marina area, "Spirit of Des Moines," by Anita Corby, has deteriorated and can no longer be repaired. We have received permission from the artist to remove and replace the mural. Some portions of the mural may be salvageable and could be framed to become part of the City's permanent art collection. Andrews recommended working with Urban Artworks on the replacement piece. Estimated cost for materials and artwork is approximately \$7,000.

Art Scholarships (Andrews) – Award an art scholarship to a full-time, first-year Highline College student who continues as a full-time, second-year student at Highline College. Award: \$500, to be used only for expenses related to the second year of schooling in the field of visual art.

Artist Laureate (Andrews) – DMAC will recognize a member of the community who has made an outstanding contribution to the mission of the arts commission, which is "To establish Des Moines as a center for the arts." The Waterland Art Laureate would be a one-year position with a \$500 award.

Online Gallery (Andrews) – Put out a call for artists, and then select artists for a three-month long online show. Artists would provide files of about 12 pieces of art, along with the sizes, medium, and price. They would also provide an artist's photo, bio, and contact information. Buyers would contact the artist directly or through the artist's website. The artist would pay DMAC 25 percent of sales and commissions generated by the DMAC gallery.

Multi-cultural Festival (Bangs) – Similar to the Benton Multicultural Festival. Send out a call for participation to various cultural entities. This would be a large event, so perhaps team with the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce.

Children's Theatre (Kirchberg) – The Missoula Children's Theatre tour team arrives with all of the sets, lights, costumes, props and make-up, everything except the cast. The team holds an open audition and casts 50-60 local students to perform in the production. The show is rehearsed throughout the week and two public performances are presented at the end of the week. The cost is \$3,200, plus housing for two people, and a piano and accompanist. The Field House, Founders' Lodge, or Beach Auditorium could be used. There is no cost to participating kids.

DMAC Art Walk – Separate from the Destination Des Moines Wine and Art Walk.

Spoken Word (Sweet) – Perhaps to take place at the Oddfellows Hall as a separate event or series of events, and/or in conjunction with the Wine and Art Walk.

Squid-A-Rama

Squid-A-Rama is scheduled for Saturday, November 10, at the MaST Center in Redondo. Andrews has been spearheading the event, and he requested an assistant. Fawcett will contact Auntie Irene's about coffee and cocoa donations. Kirchberg will contact Salty's about the chowder donation. Fred will pick up frozen squid. He has also been working with the schools regarding the kids' squid art show.

One Minute Commercials Around the Room

Sweet asked about security for the summer concerts and if security would come out of DMAC's budget. Cezar will look into that. The need for security as the concert attendance has grown was discussed.

Williams added another proposal for consideration for 2019, which is the idea of providing micro-grants for artists to do an art project, perhaps two \$500 grants made available to high school or college students.

Andrews reported that Spanish Castle Magic was fun and well-attended. Williams reported that Seattle Met had reached out through DMAC's website e-mail and requested footage from Andrews' Spanish Castle Magic video that he had created. Andrews noted that at the Sunday afternoon event at Wesley, one couple had been born in 1931 and 75 percent of those in attendance had been to Spanish Castle in its day.

Fawcett noted the need for disable access at the summer concerts.

Kirchberg noted that she would be starting a pottery class in Tacoma soon.

Project Priority Voting

Commissioners then toured the room to place dots on the posters for each of the various events or projects – both existing and newly proposed. Red dots meant "no, not in favor of pursuing;" green dots meant "yes;" yellow dots meant "more information needed." Verburg will compile the results and present the results at the next meeting.

Williams made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Farmer. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.