

Indianola Public Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 1, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers, 110 N 1st St, Indianola, IA

Members Present: Bob Kling, Grant Darrah, Tim Wilson, Monica Weinman, Justin Nostrala, Megan Shipley, Hayden Keeney

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jackie Raffety

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A correction was requested by Justin in the January minutes. It should have reflected that he, rather than Bob, is contacting other art festivals for information.

Motion to approve January minutes as corrected: Moved by Justin, seconded by Grant, APPROVED.

Jackie reported that we have received 29 applications to date, with perhaps a few that describe crafts rather than art. We discussed moving the deadline back. Monica moved that the deadline be set back to April 1, APPROVED.

Bob suggested that some of the artists displaying at the Ted Lare Art in the Garden event might be interested in our festival, as they are often of quite high quality. Problem: that event is not until May 13. He asked for permission to extend invitations selectively to artists there who had not already registered for ours. Monica moved to authorize Bob to extend invitations to artists at the Ted Lare event, APPROVED.

Grant reported securing three sponsorships at the \$500 level and another unspecified commitment. The three are the Hotel Pommier, Vice Construction, and DDVI. Tim has reached out to CityState Bank as presenting sponsor. He asked for approval to reach out to last year's sponsors (all at \$100) and offer "half off" on a one-time basis for the \$500 and \$1,000 membership levels, offering them the same benefits at \$250 and \$500, respectively, APPROVED. No other sponsorships were reported.

In other committee updates, Justin reported that the volunteer list is up. We should review it periodically, especially as we become aware of additional needs and/or we are falling short on the various tasks. Jackie told the Commission that she had made progress on arrangements for some of the facilities items, including port-a-potties and trash cans.

The Arts Master Plan was discussed briefly. Having heard from people with experience with "living walls," Bob and Jackie reported that we would not likely have success creating one because of our climate.

Bob reminded the Commission that the Bravo grants are opening soon, with applications due April 7. The possibility of applying was discussed but there was consensus that we were not likely in a position to put together a competitive project proposal this year. However, there was agreement that regardless of this particular grant timing, we need to identify a project that we determine to be within our capacity and that could attract sufficient support. Much discussion focused on downtown, especially the alley on

the 100 block of Buxton, across from the Warren County Justice Center. Ideas included those listed, none of which precluded incorporating elements of the other ideas:

- creative use of lighting, perhaps with changing patterns (Monica)
- incorporating Indianola's 175 years of history since incorporation (Justin)
- taking advantage of the low roof lines on that block by placing something high and visible from a distance (Grant)

There was discussion about the process of identifying and enlisting a lead artist for whatever project type is pursued. Bob described the common practice of putting out a request for proposals, to which interested artists would respond by presenting a design idea. Megan cautioned that we need to be careful to clarify the level of detail we are expecting for concepts prior to offering compensation. Tim suggested a model wherein public input would be incorporated after basic designs were presented. Different models wherein artists would be compensated for work done beyond a conceptual level, whether that was a small group invited to present more detailed plans after approval of their initial concepts or one artist who is selected from an initial open competition and contracted to carry out the project to completion.

One variable that needs to be checked out is the fact that the building on the south side of the alley (111 Buxton) has metal siding. It is the Warren County Economic Development Corporation. Bob will look into their openness to having their building be part of a project. Justin pointed out that there are several public spaces in Des Moines that use lighting creatively. If we decide to pursue a project incorporating creative lighting, he suggests we consult those involved with creating some of those projects.

Motion to adjourn: Justin, seconded Monica, APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23.