

Indianola Public Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes – Thursday, January 25, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers,
110 N. 1st Street, Indianola, IA

Members Present: Bob Kling, Justin Nostrala, Tim Wilson, Grant Darrah, Monica Weinman
Also Present: Doug Byland, Cassandra Mosher

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes from the November 30, 2023, meeting were approved. (motion Grant; second Justin)

Doug Bylund provided an update on the Wonder on Buxton plans (available here: [Wonder on Buxton | Wonder on Buxton \(hometownpride.wixsite.com\)](https://wonderonbuxton.hometownpride.wixsite.com)). The design ideas were very well received. Iowa-based sculptor Joe Tuggle Lacina has been engaged to create six concrete designs of approximately 7' X 5' X 5' to be placed along the corridor connecting the square with Simpson's campus. Themes will include the Balloon Classic, DMMO, Simpson College and the Warren County Fair. The planning group hopes to have an unveiling July 27 to coincide with the Art Festival, Balloon Classic, and county fair.

Grant shared a request for approval of tuning of the beehive piano, which is currently located at Warren County Conservation. The cost would be at least \$95, though due to the age and condition of the instrument some additional costs will likely be incurred. A motion to approve the request of paying for the repairs was approved (motion: Monica; second Tim)

The recently shared request from face painter Nimra Rossi was discussed. The Commission agreed to make an exception to the definition of artist/art so that she can paint faces, which will be an added attraction. A motion to allow her to participate at the artist' entry fee rate was approved (motion Justin; second Bob)

A motion to approve the sale of wine slushies per a vendor request was approved (motion Bob; second Monica)

Discussion ensued about highlighting children's work. Bob suggested that we invite children to create art during the festival. Monica pointed out that management and space would be an issue, suggesting that activities would require a separate space. She agreed to look into a plan to engage artists so long as we have a separate tent. She also reminded the group that tents will require more weights to hold them in place.

Justin pointed out that there will be a quilt display at the Simpson College Gallery on Howard Street during the festival. He asked if it would be OK to make periodic announcements encouraging attendees to visit the gallery. This idea led to discussion of quilts as an attraction and the Commissioners decided to offer the quilters a tent for display of smaller quilts and to consider having someone quilting during the festival.

Sponsorship plans were discussed next. Tim and Grant shared that they have drafted a letter and updated design, and local businesses will be approached in the next few weeks. Tim opined that we underperformed in terms of sponsor acknowledgement last year and Grant spoke of the plans for feather banners and specific sponsorships, such as the gazebo and food area. Tim suggested that announcements need to be more frequent to thank sponsors and highlight artists. It was suggested we should have an emcee or emcees who regularly speak in between performances.

Bob reminded everyone we need to ask local merchants if they have a space they'd like to see a mural. Grant said he would contact Amanda Zwanziger for ideas. Tim mentioned that Jackie had passed along information about the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership which gives grants up to \$25,000 for projects (not just art) that help with improving the lives of residents. They have some grant deadlines coming up in March but also have a category of \$500 "Trail Grant" for projects that benefit walking and cycling trails. He suggested this could be used towards a mural along the rather unappealing stretch of the Summerset Trail between N. 4th and N. 6th Streets.

A date of Saturday, September 14 was tentatively set for the first "Porch Fest." We will discuss potential entertainers and hosts at subsequent meetings.

Tim suggested we create an online "scavenger hunt" using photos of arts-related images around town. People would have to identify the location of each for a chance at a prize (small quilt?) or prizes that could double as IPAC marketing items. He will bring ideas to the next meeting.

The group next meets for a work session Thursday, February 8 for a work session TBD and on Thursday, February 22 at 6:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52.