

Indianola Public Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes – Thursday, February 22, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers,
110 N. 1st Street, Indianola, IA

Members Present: Bob Kling, Justin Nostrala, Tim Wilson, Grant Darrah,
Also Present: Jackie Raffety

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The minutes from the January 25 meeting were approved. (motion Grant; second Justin)

Grant reminded the group of the high cost estimate for tuning of the beehive piano. There was a belief that the cost was likely not as much in the tuning as in replacing or repairing damage to the piano itself. Justin will ask a colleague from Simpson College to take a look at the piano, which is at the Annett Nature Center. There was general agreement that as constituted, the Commission does not have much knowledge of pianos and condition and maintenance issues and that it would be worth paying someone to do an assessment.

The 2024 Summer Art Festival was the next topic. Justin said he had not had a chance to reach out to the local quilters about our invitation to them to have a small quilt displayed and to have members working on quilts during the Festival. He plans to contact them next week. This led to a discussion of the need for tents. The group believes that we need space for children's art and a separate tent for registration and other featured activities or art, such as the quilters. Grant has found good pricing but Jackie also pointed out some sources through which the City could purchase tents from state-approved vendors. The group believes that two tents of 10' X 20' should be sufficient. **A motion to spend up to \$1,500 on two tents and weights to hold them in place. (motion Tim; second Justin).** The tents once obtained will be stored with the City. Grant also has identified display stands that would appear to be suitable for children's art but no decision was made as there is time for further research and no immediate need.

Jackie pointed out that we have already received \$250 from the North River Arts Council. Tim said that he and Grant had worked on letters which will be going out to potential sponsors among local businesses. Also they will be tweaking the language for letters to last year's sponsors, acknowledging their past support.

The Square Project continues to evolve. Bob had meetings recently with Amanda Zwanziger of the Chamber of Commerce and Charlie Dissell, director of Community Development for the city of Indianola. There has been some misunderstanding of progress and responsibilities in the planning process. Amanda had planned to call a meeting of local businesses but Bob persuaded her that the IPAC was the appropriate entity to get input from local businesses, particularly since as discussed at the January meeting, we would like to ascertain interest in art such as murals that businesses might want on their property. She has put together a survey to go out to the businesses and as we proceed, IPAC will call a meeting for all of the downtown businesses. There is also more discussion on the alley on the west side of the square. Lighting seems to be

the most appropriate focus, as it would take less space and also address the merchants' wish to draw attention to the parking area behind the businesses. IPACT intends to put out a call for RFQs for lighting artists. The group viewed a brief video of the Dogtown lighting display in Des Moines. Bob will send a list of artists with websites highlighting their work.

Grant has started a Google spreadsheet to identify grant funding opportunities. It appeared that the Warren County Philanthropic grant cycle for their main grants is too tight, with a deadline next week. However, Grant reviewed the requirements, and they don't seem overly detailed. So he and Tim will give it a shot. Even if that opportunity passes, the grants for trail enhancement do not have a deadline for requests so that would remain an option for something along the stretch of the Summerset Trail between Dayton Park and Jefferson Way. Tim and Grant will also set up a required meeting to pursue a Bravo grant. They expect that to provide guidance on what to pursue.

Porch Fest is set and a design was approved. The date is Saturday, September 14. Homeowners living near the Buxton and Girard area will need to be recruited as well as musicians.

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 several art and architectural features to be included in an online "scavenger hunt." Jackie pointed out there was a similar challenge a couple of years ago and that those images could still be found. Timing and any prizes are yet to be determined.

The Commission will not plan a work session in March so will next on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44.