

Indianola Public Arts Commission
Meeting Minutes – Thursday, September 28, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers,
110 N. 1st Street, Indianola, IA

Members Present: Bob Kling, Grant Darrah, Tim Wilson, Monica Weinman
Also Present: Jackie Raffety

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

The minutes from the August 10 meeting were approved. (Grant motion, Tim second)

Jackie informed the group that Rachel Terlop's nomination to the Commission was not approved by City Council. No discussion occurred but Councilman Richardson's nomination was not seconded.

Treasurer Hayden Keeney was not present but Jackie reported that we have somewhere between \$3,000 and \$4,000 following the Art Festival.

Guest Randy Stone spoke to encourage the Commission to actively pursue the creation of an arts venue in Warren County. He is recruiting other arts groups and plans to convene a meeting in the near future. He suggested converting some existing space as a reasonable goal with the possibility of a new structure if enough community and financial support is forthcoming.

Discussion turned to future music events that the Commission could undertake in the next year. Bob suggested a "porch fest" as Des Moines' Union Park neighborhood and several other communities do. This involves musicians performing on residential porches on a give day and time. Marketing and maps are utilized so that neighbors and potential audience members are aware. Free will donations are encouraged. Tim suggested we create a survey and email to to musicians on our list of local artists, suggesting 3 fall Sundays as possible dates and then choosing the one with the most interest. Later we would recruit homeowners willing to let their porches and yards to be used by performers. Bob will put this together and distribute by December 1. We discussed the need to vet artists but no formal plan was determined.

Tim suggested that the Commission create a flashmob at a time and place where there would likely be a good crowd present, such as the Balloon Classic or the 2024 Art Festival. Other suggestions included holiday events on the Square. The group thought the best candidates for leading the planning would be a group such as a choir, theater group or DMMO that was planning a performance which they could practice and promote their own production. Tim will research flashmobs and reach out to local performance groups and report by November's Commission meeting.

Under Upcoming Projects, Grant reported that we missed the deadline for a BRAVO grant for next year. He will lead a process of creating a plan so that we have something in place next year

as well as for other funding opportunities that might come to our attention in the meantime. He also described a project in Wayne County that involved murals. They were able to get local funding including from the Wayne County Economic Development Corporation for large murals throughout the county. These represent different styles but all are linked to some aspect of the county's history.

The Commission was disappointed by Council's lack of support for a new and enthusiastic community member (Rachel Terlop). Discussion focused on the need for more involvement, both in terms of meetings and people. Tim suggested the need to create project-oriented committees, starting with the Art Festival. Grant(?) moved and Monica seconded to request Council to expand the Commission's membership from 7 to 9. This passed unanimously. Jackie will draw up an ordinance for Council.

Bob will prepare a call for artists for the 2024 Art Festival once we have information about housing. Jackie contacted Simpson College about arrangements for rooms. We received complaints from artists who stayed this year that the rooms were too cold. But we also know we have limited options due to the demand for local motels for those attending the Balloon Classic.

The Commission will begin holding monthly work sessions to focus on particular projects. The first will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 6:00pm; location to be determined. Topics will be planning for the Art Festival and creating an annual planning calendar. Monica will bring thank you cards to be sent to our 2023 Festival sponsors and planning will include a more robust marketing effort, including engaging the Balloon Classic and County Fair and more and earlier signage.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm. The next Commission meeting is Thursday, October 26 at 6:00pm.