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October 16, 2017

Chairperson Sonja Merrild of the  
Arts and Culture Commission of City of Grand Rapids, MN  
[smerrild@blandinfoundation.org](mailto:smerrild@blandinfoundation.org)

Dear Sonja,

I am resigning from the Arts and Culture Commission of City of Grand Rapids, MN as of 10/20/17. I have enjoyed being part of the Commission and the vibrant people who make up the Commission. The Commission has accomplished many great tasks since it has formed and I am happy that I was a part of that. Thank you to all of the Commission for being the great people that you are and for working so hard and mindfully to further Arts and Culture in the City of Grand Rapids, MN and the surrounding area. I look forward to seeing the completion of many of the projects that the Commission is working on now and the new ideas, goals, and projects the Commission creates. Please feel free to contact me and/or any of the staff of IASC Community Education if we can be of assistance in the future.

The City of Grand Rapids is fortunate to have you all on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Walker

Cc: Michele Palkki [mpalkki@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us](mailto:mpalkki@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us)

Amy Dettmer [adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us](mailto:adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us)

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
CONFERENCE ROOM 2A – GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017 – 3:45 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof the regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission was held in Conference Room 2A of the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 3:45 pm

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Sonja Merrild, Kathy Dodge, Harry Smith, Lois Bendix, David Marty, John Connelly, David Dobbs, and Myrna Peterson.

**Absent:** Karen Walker

**Visitors:** Debbie and Brian Vergin

**Staff Present:** Tom Pagel, Matt Wegwerth, Amy Dettmer and Michele Palkki

Commissioner Merrild called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

**Public Input:** Debbie and Brian Vergin were present to address the Commission regarding putting a lion water fountain on Central School Grounds. The Vergin's represent the Cap Baker Lion's Club who would like to purchase this fountain and donate it to the City of Grand Rapids.

If the City accepts the donation they would like it to be located on Central School Grounds near the Yellow Brick Road, Mr. Pagel pulled up a map and showed the location recommended. Ms. Vergin also stated that she has located one company that still makes the lion fountain so time is kind of in the essence; they hope to know within the next 6 months in order to secure the order. The company that makes these fountains is in the process of not furthering production.

Commissioner Merrild explained that because the Commission is in the middle of putting together an art placement plan that the Arts and Culture Commission would need some time to put together a map placement in regards to art being donated to the City. It may be a couple of months before we would be ready to receive requests regarding placement and accepting art.

Commissioner Merrild reported that she would keep in contact with the Vergin's once the map is in place and the Commission has some time to discuss. The Vergin's thanked the Commission for their consideration. The Commission also thanked the Vergin's for their input for art placement in the city,

**SETTING THE AGENDA**      Nothing to add

Commissioner Merrild moved the New Business to accommodate hearing from Administrator Tom Pagel and Engineer Matt Wegwerth regarding downtown news.

**NEW BUSINESS**            City Administrator Tom Pagel and City Engineer Matt Wegwerth

What is happening in downtown Grand Rapids? Mr. Pagle and Matt Wegwerth were present to bring the Commission up to date on the downtown. Mr. Pagel brought up the city downtown map as a visual to see what is new and to identify land that is owned by the City where art placement can potentially be.

**Northfield Hotel:** Mr. Pagel noted that the initial intent to build a Holiday Express Hotel down near the Library fell through, however, the city has received a new 6 month letter of intent for building a Northfield Hotel in that same location. They are currently working on a market study and will report back to the city once that is completed.

**Downtown Brewery:** Mr. Pagel reported that Ed Zabinski, part owner of the new brewery to be built, indicated they should have the financing set shortly; Matt Lehtinen is no longer a partner. Once the financing is in order, the City will let bids on the demolition of the old Grand Rapids Town Hall and Body in Balance buildings. The city reiterated that the old Rialto Theater is not going to be demolished but will be renovated as part of the plan.

**The Public Parking Lot:** This is adjacent to the businesses along Pokegama Avenue where the new brewery is to be located and may get a face-lift. Matt Lehtinen is now working on re-constructing the lot to bring greenery, possible art placement, more islands with shrubs, trees and etc. This is all contingent upon receiving financing for the project.

**The Pedestrian Bridge:** Mr. Pagel reported his hope that the bridge would still be constructed in 2018. There will be potentially places for art on both sides of the Mississippi River. Mr. Wegwerth noted that he would have an updated design available for the small group, consisting of Commissioners Merrild, Connelly, Bendix and Katie Marshall from MacRostie. This group will be walking the downtown, weather permitting, to note where public art can be placed, downtown maps will be provided.

**Farmers Market:** A question was raised if there was any area available if the Farmer's Market were to come back downtown. Mr. Pagel reported he would be open for conversations regarding public space, if they wish to come back. It was noted that the Kremer's Parking Lot is still leased to the City but M and H own the property and can pull their lease if they wish to cancel.

**CORRESPONDENCE**    Nothing to report

**MINUTES**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting held on September 5, 2017**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DODGE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SMITH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AS PRESENTED. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**FINANCIALS**        A financial report was included in the Board Packet. The First Friday Banners have been purchased for \$1,800.00 and are up.

## **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

Commissioner Bendix reported that the application for Jamie Aubid was included in the packet for review. Jamie is a Native American who paints and does bead work. He has committed to working 20 hours per week. Commissioner Bendix reported that because some of the artists are not there all the time there is room for another artist. If approved he will be there October – December 2017.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BENDIX, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOBBS TO APPROVE THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – JAMIE AUBIN AS PRESENTED. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Commissioner Bendix reported that Mary Corwin, lead artist, would begin to attend the monthly Central School tenants Meeting. Commissioners Bendix and Dodge will be trained in for the alarm system at Central School so the artists can be involved in the studio tour. Commissioner Bendix reported that either she or Commissioner Dodge would be at Central School from 10 until 3:00 pm on Sunday, for the tour, to direct people to the artist loft. Businesses will not be open on Sunday.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

**Utility Boxes** – Commissioners Connelly and Dobbs have acquired some photo's that could possibly be used for the Utility Box on the corner of the public parking lot. A photo has not been picked at this time but some were passed around for the commission to look at. Commissioners Connelly and Dobbs will contact Silvertip Graphics to arrange for shrink wrapping.

**Public Art Plan** – Commissioners Merrild, Bendix, Connelly and Katie Marshall from MacRostie will meet at City Hall on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 3:00 pm to walk the downtown to mark potential places for Art. Maps will be provided and can be picked up at the Administration Office.

**2018 Mayor's Art Award** – Commissioner Marty handed out last year's guidelines and press release. It was noted to keep the same time line as in 2017 with nominations going public on January 2, 2018, deadline is Friday, February 2, 2018 and presented at Annual Chamber Dinner on April 26, 2018. A sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Marty and Merrild will work on this.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing to report

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Grand Rapids Arts is working on a grant for the purchase of a gazebo to be built and placed at the old Kremer's Parking Lot pop up park.

The following items need to be added to the November Agenda. IRR Downtown Business Corridor Grant, Update City Council at a Work Session, 2018 Goals and Objectives.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

*Michele Palkki*

The next regular meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission will be November 7, 2017.

## **The Mayor's Arts Award**

The mayor's arts award will be granted to a Grand Rapids area business or organization that supports and promotes local arts organizations, programs or individual artists through funding, advocacy and/or community outreach in the Grand Rapids area.

### **Eligibility Guidelines:**

- **Businesses or organizations may be nominated or may nominate themselves by sending a letter of nomination and/or support to the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission, 420 N. Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids MN 55744.**
- **Businesses/organizations must be located in the Grand Rapids area.**
- **Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commissioners and selection committee members may also nominate for this award.**
- **Winners will be personally notified prior to the award ceremony.**
- **Names of nominators will not be made public or made known to the recipient.**
- **The award winner will not be announced until the award ceremony.**
- **Telephone nominations will not be accepted.**
- **Previous nominations will remain active**
- **Questions concerning this award may be directed to Amy Dettmer (adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us).**

### **Timeline:**

- **A press release calling for nominations will go public on January 2, 2018.**
- **Deadline for nominations is Monday, February 5.**
- **Letters of nomination and support will be reviewed at the GRACC meeting on February 6.**
- **The award will be presented at the GR Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on April 26.**

**For Discussion: the nature of the award.**

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission announces its second annual Mayor's Arts Award. The award will be presented at the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on April 26 to a business or non-arts organization that has made a significant impact on the arts in the Grand Rapids Area.

Letters of nomination may be delivered or emailed to Amy Dettmer ([adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us](mailto:adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us)) by Monday, February 5.

The criteria for the award is based on outstanding acts in support of the arts including significant impact either through a single act of sufficient magnitude or through a variety of activities involving the arts over a period of time. Letters of nomination should also consider support and promotion of local arts organizations, programs and individual artists. Some examples include advocacy, community outreach and involvement initiatives such as workplace based gallery exhibitions, volunteerism, scholarships, and a variety of other activities that promote the value of arts and culture in our community.

Questions may be directed to Amy Dettmer at 218-326-7640 or ([adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us](mailto:adettmer@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us))