

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 5, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Commission will be held in the Conference Room 2B at City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744 on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 3:45 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Public input
3. Setting the Agenda
4. Correspondence
5. Approve the following Minutes: Regular Meeting December 1, 2015
6. Financials Approved 2016 Budget \$5,000.00
7. Old Business Progress Reports
Discussion of Jeff Johns' Presentation
8. New Business Election of Officers
Approval of Sculpture Project
Minnesota Orchestra Visit
9. Set agenda for next regular meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
10. Adjourn

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015 – 3:15 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 2B of the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 N Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 3:15 pm

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Lois Bendix, John Connelly, Harry Smith, Kathy Dodge, Leah Yellowbird, David Marty, Karen Walker, and Sonja Merrild.

Present via skype: Benjamin Braff

Visitor: Jeff Johns, Forest History Center

Commissioner Merrild arrived at 3:20 pm

Staff Present: Amy Dettmer, Jessica Setness and Michele Palkki

Commissioner Dodge called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm.

SETTING THE AGENDA: Nothing to add

Commissioner Merrild arrived at 3:20 pm

Introductions were held on behalf of newest Commissioner Leah Yellowbird.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, November 3, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Marty, second by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 3, 2015 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A discussion was held regarding temporary lighting at Central School for the Artist(s) in Residence on the 3rd floor. Commissioner Dodge has been in contact with City Facility Director Ron Edminster and he gave permission to purchase specific lighting from Home Depot.

Commissioner Dodge requested permission to spend some of the money left in the Arts and Culture budget.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Merrild to approve the purchase of temporary lighting, up to \$500.00 out of the Arts and Culture Budget, for the Artist(s) in Residence at Central School. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dodge also requested permission to purchase 3 signs, that indicate the Artist is in or out. The signs will be 22" x 28" and be located at each entrance to the building.

Motion by Commissioner Bendix, second by Commissioner Marty to approve the purchase of 3 signs, up to \$400.00 out of the Arts and Culture Budget, for the Artist(s) in Residence at Central School. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS – Jeff Johns, Forest History Center

Commissioner Dodge welcomed Mr. Johns to the meeting. Mr. Johns was invited to speak about programs that are ongoing at the Forest History Center and what is projected for 2016.

Mr. Johns reported that regular activities continue at the Forest History Center. Into the Woods Programs are planned from September 19, 2015 through – May 21, 2016. For more information, call the Forest History Center at 327-4482.

This year additional activities are scheduled for an old-fashioned holiday experience on December 5th and 6th. The festivities will include music entertainment, wagon rides, light the fire tower and fire- works.

Additional programs, WinterGlo Festival are planned for Friday, December 4th through Sunday, December 6th. This event was coordinated with people who came together to put something that could be included with destinations/marketing that Visit Grand Rapids does. It is hoped that this festival can grow and continue each year.

Events begin with unveiling of business windows, with a decorating contest to be judged and a winner declared at 6:30 pm in Central School. There are many events scheduled throughout the weekend. The events will close at 2:30 pm with the Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus Christmas Concert held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

There are events in the planning phases for 2016 including Forest Jam, possible logging international competition. October Fest has been such a great success there are more events planned for 2016 that will include the whole family.

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Commissioner Merrild requested that the Forest History Center include more programs that interpret the Ojibwe culture.

Mr. Johns reported that there have been over 50,000 visitors at the Forest History Center. The Commission thanked Mr. Johns for his report and welcomed him to come to future meetings.

OLD BUSINESS – Commissioner’s Progress Reports

Commissioner – River Venue Progress

Commissioner Connelly reported that a meeting was held with City Administrator Pagel and Community Director Rob Mattei regarding the River Venue. A Request for Proposal (RFP) would need to include community input, assess need, potential users etc. Mr. Mattei will begin to work on a draft. Timeline would be to begin sometime in the 1st quarter of 2016 and completion by fall of 2016 with potential implementation in 2017.

Commissioner Bendix – Public Art

Commissioner Bendix reported that she would get together with Jeff Davies, Public Works Director, regarding public art, what can be accepted as donations of art and their locations.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Commissioner Dodge reported that she would coordinate the purchase of lighting for Central School. Lily Winter will be coming in February for the Artist in Residence program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/QUESTIONS

Commissioner Dodge reported that she will be absent at the January 5th Meeting. Vice Chair, Commissioner Merrild, will conduct the meeting. Elections need to take place for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at the January Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

Next Regular Meeting

Reminder, the next regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 beginning at 3:45 pm at the Grand Rapids City Hall, Conference Room 2B.

1.) At the last GRACC meeting, the Commission authorized up to \$500 to purchase lighting for the artists' loft. This was completed for \$96.73. Since the lights were LED, no extra bulbs were required and the track lighting was being discontinued and greatly reduced in price.

Payment was also authorized for signage for Old Central School. Signs were installed.

2.) Katie Marshall and I met with Rob Mattei to see if the City would consider a Creative Spaces Consulting Visit from ArtsSpace. The cost is \$20,000. Yikes! He was somewhat open to the idea but it cannot be considered until the agreement with North Rock expires at the end of June. The hope is that North Rock will eventually come through with a plan. The City would be really content with OCS if the building were full and someone else managed it. The rent is below market rate at \$12 per square foot, which includes heat and electricity.

I also mentioned that it would be cool if NW 1st Avenue were closed for FF during the summer months to create a plaza. Rob liked the idea.

3.) Email from Katie Marshall:

"Dan and Nancy Root stopped in today because they want to do an installation in the center of the 3rd floor of Central School (where Aaron's stuff is now). Dan has a vision for a hundred of his aluminum butterflies floating around in there -- and some giant lady bugs and other details. But before he got too carried away they decided to find out if it would be possible. He talked to Rob Mattei who said to talk to you. So they talked to me ;-)

What are your thoughts? He wasn't as interested in the artist residency because it would be too hard to get all his tools up there. Plus he really wants to work with that center space. I think it would be a fun attraction -- and he had ideas for getting school kids involved in painting bugs. I guess they've done that for a few years at Forest Lake.

I told him we'd get back to him on whether it would be possible. "

4.) Lois would want to discuss signage. "Welcome to Ojibwe Country" or something like that at the entrances to town for the 125 anniversary.