

## **ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting, Tuesday, August 4, 2015**

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, August 4, 2015 at 3:15 p.m.

#### **Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Public input
3. Setting the Agenda
4. Approve the Minutes: Regular Meeting July 7, 2015
5. Financials
6. Old Business  
Progress Reports: Arts & Culture Plan  
River Venues Update  
Pop up Park Update  
Tabled Motion / Amphitheater Location
7. New Business  
Kevin Reese Residency  
Yvonne Byrd Residency  
Creative MN Presentation
8. Correspondence/Announcements
9. Set agenda for next regular meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2015
10. Adjourn

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B- GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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, July 7, 2015, at 3:15 pm

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Kathy Dodge, Todd Driscoll, Harry Smith, Lois Bendix, David Marty, John Connelly, Benjamin Braff and Karen Walker.

Commissioners absent: Sonja Merrild

Staff Present: Amy Dettmer, Jessica Setness and Michele Palkki

Visitor: Becky LaPlant

Benjamin Braff, A + B Productions, will be filming portions of the GRACC meeting today as part of a documentary about the arts in Itasca County. Note they will not be filming our discussion about reaching out to the Ojibwe population. David Marty has offered his experience on working with native artists.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

Add: Financial Report

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, June 9, 2015**

Correct spelling of John Connelly (last name).

**Motion by Commissioner Driscoll, second by Commissioner Marty to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 9, 2015 with the change listed above. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The monthly financial report was distributed to the Commission. The current budget balance for 2015 is \$1,296.00.

**OLD BUSINESS - Commissioner's reports**

***Showboat Landing***

Commissioner Braff reported that there were some safety concerns down at the Showboat Landing in which the variety shows are taking place. The stage is not for use by the public, but can be used in performances. There are some bleachers in the upper area behind the seating in the amphitheater that will be removed by the City.

ZiiBi Production will collaborate with the Uncommon Loons with Grand Rapids Players with the production being held at Showboat Landing.

Commissioner Braff reported that the City is still waiting on cost estimates for an amphitheater at the Forest History Center.

Commissioner Dodge reported that the state bond request for 1.5 million to build a new amphitheater has moved forward for the next 2016 session.

***GRMN Creates – City Comprehensive Plan***

Staff Liaison Dettmer reported that she spoke to Eric Trast, from the Community Development Department, regarding the request to include GRMN Creates as part of the City Comprehensive Plan. Once approved, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council at either the July 27 or August 10 meeting, which at that time a public hearing will take place to hear any public input regarding the request. The City Council will then vote to accept the GRMN Creates as part of the City of Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Dettmer will keep the Commission updated as information comes forward.

***Commissioner Connelly***

Commissioner Connelly reported that he is continuing to meet with Get Fit Itasca to see if there is to be an art component included with the event.

Community Garden: Commissioner Connelly also has been meeting with Betsy Johnson regarding a Community Garden, with the possibility of adding some public art in or around the area, at the Itasca Community College Experiment Site.

Pop Up Park – Aaron Squadroni has been hired to help make panels for the pop up park located on the old Kremer's Parking Lot. These panels will help define the area, separate the highway traffic and also will be used as backdrops. Commissioner Dodge reported that the Grand Rapids Arts received a grant that has helped with expenses for these panels. During the Arts Festival, this weekend, the MacRostie will be working on one of the panels, which may include the community to take part in.

These panels will hopefully be able to be used for other arts events in the future.

Commissioner Dodge reported that the Grand Rapids Arts will be receiving another grant to have an artist come in for 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in August and October.

***Commissioner Marty***

Commissioner Marty met with Becky LaPlant and asked if she would be willing to attend the Arts and Culture Commission regarding building relationships with the Native American People. As part of the goals, set by the Commission, they wished to informally share updates and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Becky LaPlant, Public Policy and Engagement Program Associate Blandin Foundation works with the Circles of Healing and is a Commissioner on the City Human Rights Commission.

Ms. LaPlant talked about some history she has been involved with the Native American People. The short answer is that it comes down to that it has to begin with you and me. We need to be willing to be vulnerable and attend events that have native involvement and begin to learn and understand culture for what it is and not what we were taught.

Show up at events, Pow Wow's and etc. There are documentaries that explain what happened to the Native American People so this is a good avenue to learn from. Some ideas would be to watch the documentary called Journey to Forgiveness; there is a book called Trail of Tears, speaks about the Cherokee Nation that was forced to give up its lands east of the Mississippi River and to migrate to an area in present-day Oklahoma. The Cherokee people called this journey the "**Trail of Tears**," because of its devastating effects.

An event that is coming up on October 12, 2015, is the first Indigenous People's Day. The City Council passed a resolution to proclaim Indigenous People's Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October. The Human Rights Commission will be heading up a program for the event.

There will be an art component with this event; Katie Marshall is working with the Committee that is putting a program together, she would welcome any help from the Commission for this event.

The Commission thanked Ms. LaPlant for coming and sharing with us.

Commissioner Walker left at 4:30 pm.

***Showboat Landing (Sculptures) – Benjamin Braff***

Commissioner Braff reported that he is working with a group called Gems of Itasca. Previously they wanted to showcase life-size and large steel sculptures at Showboat Landing. These sculptures are created by local sculptor Ken Steel.

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While working on insurance for some of the events, how to move these sculptures and insuring them, Commissioner Braff spoke to City Administrator Tom Pagel and at that time the City informed Mr. Braff that they would not be approving any more events at the Showboat site.

The events that were previously accepted did not include the sculptures at the Showboat Site. Mr. Pagel reported that the City does not want any further promotion of Showboat Landing. Mr. Pagel did say that the City would be willing to help with having the sculptures at a downtown site, such as Central School, Kremer's Parking Lot.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 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, August 4, 2015 beginning at 3:15 pm at the Grand Rapids City Hall, Conference Room 2B.