

## **ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting, Tuesday, June 9, 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, June 9, 2015 at 3:15 p.m.

#### **Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Public input
3. Setting the Agenda
4. Approve the Minutes: Regular Meeting May 5, 2015
5. Old Business Reports on progress of Arts and Culture Plan
6. Artist in Residence Approval
7. New Business Rural Arts & Culture Summit
8. Correspondence/Announcements
9. Set agenda for next regular meeting: Tuesday, July 7, 2015
10. Adjourn

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B- GRAND RAPIDS CITY HALL  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 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, May 5, 2015, at 3:15 pm

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

Lois Bendix arrived at 3:23 pm

Commissioners absent: John Connelly, Sonja Merrild

Staff Present: Tom Pagel, Jeff Davies, Rob Mattei, Julie Kennedy, Amy Dettmer, Michele Palkki, Jessica Setness

Visitor: None

**SETTING THE AGENDA:** Under New Business, the following was added:

Artist in residence  
Creative place-making opportunities

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, April 7, 2015**

**Motion by Commissioner Marty, second by Commissioner Driscoll to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 7, 2015. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**OLD BUSINESS - Nothing to report**

**NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Reports**

***Arts Award – Commissioner Marty and Commissioner Merrild***

Commissioners Marty and Merrild met with Bud Stone from the Chamber of Commerce to have a discussion if having an annual business award is something the Chamber businesses would be interested in. Mr. Stone was very receptive to the idea and would be open to have further discussions on having the winner announced at the Chamber Annual Dinner in 2016. Commissioner Marty reported that he and Commissioner Merrild would follow up with the Chamber and have more details to bring back to the Commission later.

Lois Bendix arrived at 3:23 pm

***Rules and Regulations Clarified – Commissioner Driscoll***

Commissioner Driscoll put together information clarifying and streamline city rules related to street festivals, performances in parks, street performers, food trucks, and serving alcohol at events.

Organizations wishing to use city public property are asked to fill out a Park and Recreation Facility Rental Agreement, which is very basic and easy to fill out, and submit it with Dale Anderson, Park and Recreation Director. He will initiate the coordination within the city for events.

Commissioner Driscoll distributed a map of the showboat landing park parcel. There are performances planned for the summer, however, this will be the last year for the use of Showboat Landing and that a future location will need to be sought. The City is supportive and would be willing to help in any way they can.

Regarding the use of alcohol, individuals should contact Kim Johnson, City Clerk regarding the application process.

Questions were asked if we could put quick links on the City web page. Commissioner Driscoll will follow up on this and report back.

***Showboat Site – Commissioner Merrild and Commissioner Braff***

Commissioner Braff was available via Skype. The Showboat Board now considered the “Mississippi River Board” has been meeting and working on scheduling more performances and events at the showboat site. Commissioner Braff reported that he and Commissioner Merrild have met with City Staff regarding the future of this site.

Mr. Pagel reported that this would be the final year that the City will allow the use of this property; however, the City is willing to collaborate with the Arts and Culture Commission on a possible location for the future.

Commissioner Braff reported that they had met with Jeff Johns of the Forest History Center as a possible future location.

It was determined that the longer we delay to find a new location the harder it is on the partners/funders and that they are going to work with the Forest History Center. Other locations were looked at but determined that not only would it be difficult to build but also the river heights/depths are a factor.

Commissioner Braff reported that they would like to see a venue where multiple agencies come on board as individuals or groups and grow independently and that the use for performances will vary depending on size, type etc.

Commissioner Braff noted that they will need help moving to a new location and that if the City would be willing to do whatever they can to help it would be greatly appreciated.

***Creative Place-Making – Commissioner Braff***

Commissioner Braff reported that he has been working with Gems of Itasca who currently are working on “life right now and how you can experience it”

There are three events that they would like to showcase at Showboat Landing

1 – Kenny Steel creates an amazing collection of animals from steel. He could bring some of this sculptures to display down by the Mississippi River.

2 – Dine on the Mississippi. They would like to create an experience where people can actually have dinner, that would be catered in, and experience outdoor dining.

3 – An Hour of Gospel – To draw and/lead area artists and/or bands to have a 1 hour concert on the river celebrating life along the Mississippi

The Commission did express a vote of confidence to help with these ideas in concept and making more experiences available to the public along the Mississippi River.

Commissioner Walker left at 3:30 pm

***City Administrator Pagel***

Grand Rapids Township Hall: Is currently up for sale. The goal is to use the funds from this sale to go toward the Active Living Center located at the YMCA. There have been conversations with the landowner to the North and the contractor but nothing has been determined.

Rialto Theater: Nothing has been pursued with the owner of this building.

Central School Report: Community Development Director Rob Mattei has just received the report and is going through it at this time.

Central School Room Vacancy- There will be two vacancies beginning July 1. The areas could be used for a number of things, the Commission will discuss this.

***Kremer's Parking Lot – Commissioner Dodge***

Commissioner Dodge is continuing to work on providing music, food, etc. during 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays on a portion of the Kremer's parking lot. Commissioner Dodge will continue to work with Mr. Davies to reserve a part of the Kremer's parking lot for 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays this summer.

***Artist in Residence – Commissioner Bendix***

Commissioner Bendix reported that beginning May 15 we do not have any new requests for the artist in residence program. Commissioner Bendix did speak with both the Uncommon Loons and Leah Yellowbird to see if they would like to continue for another 3 months and they both accepted that offer. Both of these residents really work well with the visitors.

**APPROVAL OF ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – MAY 15 – AUGUST 15**

**Motion by Commissioner Bendix, second by Commissioner Marty to approve the Artist in Residents, Uncommon Loons and Leah Yellowbird for May 15 – August 14. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

***Next Regular Meeting Change***

A discussion took place, that due to several Commission Members being gone on June 2 and the possibility of not having a quorum; it was discussed to move the meeting to a date at a later time in June. It was determined that the next regular meeting will be moved to Tuesday, June 9.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

Reminder, the next regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 beginning at 3:15 pm at the Grand Rapids City Hall, Conference Room 2B.