



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**  
**3:45 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hedlund at 3:48pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Ed Zabinski  
Commissioner Kari Hedlund  
Commissioner Myrna Peterson  
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni  
Commissioner Angie Miskovich  
Commissioner Derek Fox  
City Administrator, Tom Pagel  
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman  
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa  
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh

**PUBLIC INPUT:** (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

Commissioner Miskovich asked to whom do people talk to regarding First Friday and the Commission said that there is information on the Grand Rapids Arts website.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

**Motion made by Commissioner Zabinski, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to add Agenda Item 9A, Artist in Residence. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich and Commissioner Fox.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve February 6, 2024 Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Miskovich to approve the February 6, 2024 Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich and Commissioner Fox.**

FINANCIALS: No Change.

No motion as there was no change to the financials.

BUSINESS:

2. Riverfest 2024

The Commission brainstormed about art at Riverfest. Possibly something for the long term that could be a permanent display, which could be added to over the years. There was also a mention of a Riverfest billboard somewhere near the library that could display the event date. One other mention was a possible project for the college students, which there would have to be a conversation with the college around July or August.

3. Mayor's Art Award

Emily Carlson, MacRostie Program Manager, discussed that last year the Commission did nominations for the Mayor's Art Award in July and they were posted in October. The process and the timeline have changed over the years, but the Commission will decide when to do the nominations and where they want to do the announcement.

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to give the Mayor's Art Award Announcement at the 1st Friday Art Walk in October, with the nominations due by the June 4th, 2024 Arts & Culture Meeting. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich and Commissioner Fox.**

4. Strategic Plan

The Commission discussed that due to Covid, the Strategic Plan was interrupted and it needs to be updated. This item was discussed with New Commissioner Training.

5. New Commissioner Training

The Commission discussed that there is a need for training in new commissioners. The Commission would like to create a New Commissioner Packet to be given to new appointees so that they get a better understanding of the the Arts & Culture Commission. They would also like to update their Strategic Plan. City Administrator, Tom Pagel asked that Cindy Lyman send the Human Rights Commission Onboarding Packet and their Work Plan out to the Commissioners as an example.

**Motion made by Commissioner Fox, Seconded by Commissioner Zabinski to approve a subcommittee of Commission Chair Hedlund and Commissioners Miskovich and Peterson to work on updating the Strategic Plan and creating a New Commissioner Packet. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich and Commissioner Fox.**

6. Old Central School Sculpture/Welcome Sign Proposal

The TruNorth Salon submitted a “Proposal” to the Commission requesting a “Rainbow Sculpture/Welcome Sign” on the Central School Grounds. They are looking for assistance in concept development, fundraising-budget and basically help on all aspects in how to do move forward. City Administrator Tom Pagel said it is a City Park, that the City Council would need to be involved and agreed that the sign needs to be replaced. Commissioner Zabinski will talk to her and bring an update back to the Commission.

UPDATES:

7. NE Neighborhood Art Project

MacRostie Program Manager Emily Carlson gave an update on the artists for the NE Neighborhood Art Project at the Crystal Lake Fishing Pier. The three artists who were finalists for the NW Neighborhood Art Project are all on board with this new location. City Administrator Tom Pagel asked Emily Carlson to let the artists know that the NW Neighborhood Art Project has been closed while the development of a Master Plan is being put together. The deadline to present their art for the Crystal Lake Fishing Pier art could be set to April. Tom Pagel and Emily Carlson will connect to schedule.

8. Blandin Mural

Commissioner Squadroni gave an update regarding the Blandin Foundation Mural. After some investigation and talking to Leah Yellowbird, the mural could be photographed using high resolution and put on vinyl. This would preserve it before it gets wrecked completely. So, the first step would be preservation. Commissioner Squadroni would talk to photographers to get estimates.

9. Blanket Exercise

Commissioner Peterson is looking for a headcount for the Blanket Exercise to be held on April 8th at the Yanmar Arena, after the City Council meeting at 6pm.

9A. Artist in Residence. It was requested that they meet with the Commission around either the May or June Arts & Culture Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. Riverfest 2024

UPDATES:

3. Strategic Plan/New Commissioner Training Subcommittee
4. Old Central School Sculpture/Welcome Sign Proposal
5. NE Neighborhood Art Project
6. Blandin Mural
7. Blanket Exercise RSVP
8. Pokegama Band Map

ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Fox to adjourn at 5:12pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Zabinski, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich and Commissioner Fox.**

Respectfully submitted by, Cynthia Lyman.