

Edina Arts and Culture Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
City of Edina, Minnesota
Edina City Hall Community Room
July 25, 2013
4:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order

Chair Bouassida called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Dana Lappin, Ray Meifert, Colin Nelson, Kitty O’Dea, Paul Peterson, Thomas Raeuchle, and John Swon.

Commissioners Absent: Barbara La Valleur

Staff Present: Michael Frey, General Manager, Edina Art Center.

Students Representatives Absent: Anna Ellingboe, Melissa Stefanik.

Public present: Lois Ring, Naomi Griffith, and Margery Wells.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Chair Bouassida noted some of the work planned for the last month was not completed due to hectic schedules, but the plan is to get back on track for this month.

The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of June 29, 2013**
- B. Edina Film Festival Report**
- ~~**C. Music in Edina Group Report**~~
- ~~**D. Public Art Committee Report**~~
- ~~**E. General Manager Monthly Report**~~

Chair Bouassida removed Items C, D, and E from the Consent Agenda, noting that the General Manager Monthly report will be moved to the next meeting, as Manager Frey just returned from vacation.

Commissioner Swon noted the Film Festival received some attention in the local newspapers.

The Consent Agenda was approved as amended.

C. Music in Edina Group Report

Commissioner Peterson stated he recently played at the Music in the Park at Apple Valley, and their program is very robust. He reported he is moving ahead with gathering more information as to how others in Minnesota handle their music in the park programming. He noted that Bloomington recently received a substantial grant for their music program.

Commissioner Peterson reported he would like to focus on two spring/summer festivals. Once the working group comes together, they will research locations and permits, followed by a discussion with Scott Neal, City Manager. He noted there is a lot of music in Edina, but it is just scattered. He would love to have the music offerings be posted on the website.

Commissioner Lappin stated *City Extra* includes all the music offerings in its weekly update. Commissioner O’Dea noted Communication & Technology Services Director Bennerotte has been helpful in updating the website quickly for other issues, so she could be helpful in this area as well.

Commissioner Peterson concluded he is looking forward to working on several other issues, including the Show-Mobile.

Commissioner Swon offered that Mickie Turk previously conducted a lot of research into permitting for outdoor events, so she would be a helpful resource.

Chair Bouassida suggested Commissioner Peterson form his working group and bring back to the Commission research on how other cities handle their music programming.

Commissioner Peterson discussed the timeline for planning events for the summer of 2014. Once a location and time for the one-day music festival are established, vendors will be asked to provide bids. He inquired whether there is a deadline to be included in the City budget for next year.

Chair Bouassida stated at this point, a scope of the project is required before the work plan is to be presented in September/October.

Commissioner Raeuchle added that some groups will approach the Commission about some funding, and the Commission will then approach the Council about possible funding.

Chair Bouassida noted it may be that some groups come before the Commission and do not ask for any funding.

Chair O'Dea noted the working groups need to be conscious about whether they want to interact with funding through the City or not.

Commissioner Nelson stated he has put on two events for the park at the swimming pool. He asked Commissioner Peterson to contact him for research.

Commissioner Lappin noted Pinstripes will want to be a vendor at the music festival.

Chair Bouassida suggested that the working group be established and a budget proposed for the next Commission meeting.

The Music in Edina report was accepted as presented.

D. Public Art Committee Report

Chair Bouassida presented a request made of the Commission regarding representation on the task force planning art sculpture for the Fairview Southdale Emergency Room expansion. Developer Larry Laukka had suggested Commissioner La Valleur and two others join the task force. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for August 5, 2013. Chair Bouassida noted he has discussed this request with Mr. Laukka and indicated he will bring it before the Commission.

Chair Bouassida then read aloud the email exchange he had with Commissioner La Valleur regarding the request for representation on the task force.

Commissioner Raeuchle asked why three representatives from the Commission are necessary for the task force. He suggested this should be in the purview of the Edina Public Art Committee. Additionally, he questioned what they are going to do with three people rather than just the one. To clarify for the other Commissioners, he explained the Fairview Southdale Emergency Room expansion is a plan to extend the Edina Promenade from its current ending all the way up to Fairview Southdale. He suggested it is too early in the process to think about specific artists.

Commissioner O'Dea asked whether Commissioner La Valleur is representing the Arts and Culture Commission on the task force. Chair Bouassida stated no one can represent the Arts and Culture Commissions on its own without the Commission giving its blessing.

Ms. Lois Ring stated it is important to understand the purpose of the hospital. She also inquired whether they will provide a sculpture or will the task force expect one to be on loan through the Public Art Committee.

The Commission discussed the process of deciding whether or not the Commission should be involved in public arts approval.

Chair Bouassida suggested the Commission have a temporary measure for the next meeting, until Commissioner La Valleur is present.

Commissioner Raeuchle suggested EPAC member Bill McCabe attend the first meeting to see what the task force is all about. Commissioner Raeuchle proposed that the Arts and Culture Commission temporarily nominate Bill McCabe, who has a background in arts as well as construction and planning, to attend the first meeting and report back, and then revisit the issue. He also encouraged Manager Frey to attend as well.

The Commission concurred that is a reasonable proposal.

Manager Frey stated he is happy to attend the meeting and report back to the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Raeuchle and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to appoint Bill McCabe as temporary representative at the Fairview Southdale Emergency Room Task Force, with the duty of reporting back to the Arts and Culture Commission during its next meeting the specific requests made of the Commission as well as the operating motives of the task force.

Ayes: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Dana Lappin, Ray Meifert, Colin Nelson, Kitty O’Dea, Paul Peterson, Thomas Raeuchle, and John Swon. Motion carried.

Chair Bouassida noted the vote on the action item proposed by Commission La Valleur to have Ms. Barb Janisch join the task force will be tabled so that the Edina Public Art Committee can vote on their representation to the task force.

The Commissioners agreed to table the action item for the next meeting, pending further information from Commissioner La Valleur, the Edina Public Art Committee, and the Fairview Southdale ER task force, specifically with regarding to clarification of the representation requested.

Chair Bouassida continued that the Public Art Committee report also mentions representation on the Human Services Task Force and specifically Commissioner La Valleur’s candidacy to serve again on the Human Services Task Force.

Commissioner Meifert clarified that the Human Services Task Force looks at requests by various charities and decides where to allocate funding. He suggested Commissioner La Valleur would be a good candidate, as she has already served.

Commissioner Lappin stated she could not serve last year and would like to put her name in for it this year. She noted Scott Neal has recommended only one Commissioner be allowed to serve.

Chair Bouassida suggested a secret ballot to decide on representation.

The nine Commissioners present cast their ballots.

Manager Frey tallied the ballots and presented the vote: Commissioner Lappin was appointed to represent the Arts and Culture Commission on the Human Services Task Force for one term.

Commissioner Raeuchle asked Commissioner Lappin to report back to the Commission after attending the Human Services Task Force meetings.

The Edina Pubic Art Committee report was unanimously approved.

V. Community Comment

Chair Bouassida welcomed the three members of the public present.

Ms. Naomi Griffith stated she was on the Arts and Culture Working Group, and she is now interested in participating in some of the working groups and also is wondering about what progress is being made.

Ms. Lois Ring stated the lighting on the Pinecone is supposed to be operational by the end of the week and that the plaques for the sculptures are not in place. Mr. Frey stated they have been ordered.

Ms. Margery Wells stated she has been a business owner for 31 years and she is interested in the arts. Now she is a painter and also into music. She was on the Arts and Culture Working Group as a public member, and she would like to participate in whatever venues or openings may occur.

Commissioner O’Dea stated there are working groups forming for the Edina Art Center, music, and the film festival.

Commissioner Raeuchle stated there is also the option of an informal working group that does not have to post meeting notices and take minutes. He noted that Manager Frey has distributed all the findings of the Arts and Culture Working Group.

Chair Bouassida noted that members of the public can continue to volunteer time and efforts.

Commission Nelson added that public participation is welcome.

Manager Frey added that the guidelines for public participation are the Art Center Board/Arts and Culture Commission bylaws.

Ms. Ring discussed an idea of creating an opportunity for Edina artists to sell art at the Art Center, earning a commission.

VI. Reports/Recommendations

A. Working Groups

Chair Bouassida proposed beginning the working group for the Edina Art Center.

Commissioner Raeuchle suggested waiting to establish all of the working groups, after the bylaws are clearly in place. However, that does not stop interested parties from ideas beginning.

Chair Bouassida asked Commissioner Lappin to have a formal proposal about the work of the Art Center working group for the next meeting.

Commissioner Ellis stated the idea of art for sale in Edina is an important discussion to be had. She wants to be sure everyone has the same idea of what a working group is.

VII. Correspondence and Petitions

Chair Bouassida asked if there was any correspondence or petitions. None voiced.

VIII. Chair and Board Commissioner Comments

Chair Bouassida proposed Commissioner Lappin present her reports to Manager Frey, and have him present it comprehensively to the Arts and Culture Commission.

Chair Bouassida commented on the grant received by Bloomington from the National Endowment of the Arts, which also received a match from the City.

Ms. Wells commented that as an educational type of facility, which the Art Center is, a portion of the facility could be sectioned off as something new and innovative with involvement from a 501C(3).

Manager Frey stated he would like to have a discussion with Ms. Wells about that.

Commissioner Raeuchle stated there is a Living Streets initiative in Edina, and the Arts and Culture Commission should try to become involved in its working group. He noted there is an eminent domain issue going on in downtown Edina. One of the things he proposes is turning the surface parking lot behind D'Amico's into an urban park. Commissioner O'Dea stated she has discussed that with the Mayor and it is under consideration.

Commissioner O'Dea reported she was recently in Denver and their arts and culture community is doing some really interesting things, and their communication via the newspaper is really well done. A copy of the newspaper will be distributed to the Commissioners.

IX. Staff Comments

Manager Frey stated one working group, which may be helpful, is one tasked with investigating what is going on in the City where arts and funding may be involved. He also thanked Ms. Ring, Ms. Griffith, and Ms. Wells for their attendance.

Ms. Wells asked to be included on notifications of future meetings.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Raeuchle and seconded by Commissioner O'Dea that the Arts and Culture Commission adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Ayes: Hafeed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Dana Lappin, Ray Meifert, Colin Nelson, Kitty O'Dea, Paul Peterson, Thomas Raeuchle, and John Swon. Motion carried.