

**Edina Arts and Culture Commission Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
City of Edina, Minnesota  
Edina City Hall Mayor's Conference Room  
July 15, 2014  
5:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Meifert called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow.

Commissioners Absent: Dana Lappin.

Staff Present: Michael Frey, General Manager, Edina Art Center; and Susan Faus, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.

Student Representatives Present: None.

**III. Introductions**

Mr. Frey introduced recently appointed Commissioner Steve Suckow, who gave a brief introduction to the Commission.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Chair Meifert noted the meeting agenda had been circulated and asked if there were requests for additions or changes. No additions to the agenda voiced.

**Motion by Chair Meifert and seconded by Commissioner Bouassida that the Arts and Culture Commission approve the July 15, 2014 Agenda as presented.**

Ayes: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow. Motion carried.

**V. Adoption of Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of June 26, 2014**
- ~~**B. General Manager's Report**~~
- ~~**C. Music in Edina Working Group**~~
- ~~**D. Public Art Working Group**~~

Chair Meifert asked if there were changes or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2014. No changes voiced.

Mr. Frey noted that Items B, C, and D should be moved to Reports/Recommendations.

**Motion by Chair Meifert and seconded by Commissioner Raeuchle that the Arts and Culture Commission approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**

Ayes: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow. Motion carried.

**B. General Manager's Report**

Mr. Frey stated that online registrations are going well.

**C. Music in Edina Working Group**

The Commission was informed that the second event is being held this Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Rosland Park from 6-9 p.m. with music by Patty Peterson. The third event will feature Michael Nelson & Band. Commissioner La Valleur stated that they will have a booth/tent at the event this weekend and she will be handing out cards for the August event on Friday night. Mr. Frey added that there will be no food at the upcoming event.

Commissioner Ellis requested that all Commissioners do their best to email this info to as many contacts as possible. Commissioner O'Dea stated that she put this info on Facebook. Mr. Frey added that comments from attendees were that the event was a bit too long, having lasted 3 hours. He stated that 2½ hours might be somewhat better.

#### **D. Public Art Working Group**

Commissioner La Valleur informed the Commission that there had been no meeting in the month of July. She provided flyers created by the Communications Department so that the public might vote for their favorite sculptures in the City. She requested that all Commissioners who had not voted do so, but reminded them that they can only vote once. She spoke of the online public conversation that is available to the public until July 31<sup>st</sup> and informed the Commission that this information will be fed back to the City Council in August. She stated there are 3 questions on the survey and urged all Commission members to complete this prior to the deadline.

Commissioner Ellis stated that this is a good opportunity to mention the "percentage for art". Commissioner La Valleur added that some participants in the survey have mentioned this.

Commissioner Raeuchle stated that there is a problem with this because it only talks about public sculpture and that's not enough to make an arts community. Commissioner Ellis replied that the answers can be rephrased. Commissioner Suckow added that everyone should remember that this is long term and that they should keep building on it one step at a time. This 3-week period of opinions obtained online is a short time period and these comments can be built on and learned from for the future.

Commissioner La Valleur inquired where the three questions came from. She was informed that the Communications Department of the City had come up with the questions.

#### **VI. Community Comment**

No comments made.

#### **VII. Reports/Recommendations**

##### **A. Grandview Committee**

Chair Meifert stated that this committee met last Wednesday.

Commissioner Raeuchle stated that the committee talked about what they need to do and what has happened up to this point. He also briefly went over the history. Commissioner Raeuchle spoke about the new Art Center, which it is felt the Commission should have an opinion about. He stated that this goes back to 2007 and approximately every two months there has been some activity in regard to this. He stated that there is a great deal of data somewhere that can be retrieved and reviewed. Commissioner Raeuchle stated that the reality remains that the Art Center is maxed out at this point.

Commissioner Ellis talked about previous discussions, with the outcome being that it was desirable to have a facility for the arts and that needs to be recommended.

Commissioner Bouassida stated this has always been on the table. The only reason for waiting was that there was a new commission being appointed. He opined that this is a fundamental issue and he feels that the Commission needs to make a recommendation. He stated that this is the time to do it.

Commissioner Raeuchle stated that there is a timeline that the City is following and he will ask Economic Development Manager Neuendorf for that timeline and will provide it to Mr. Frey. He stated that the Commission should be ready to participate and that the development partners and commissions should all be involved by September.

Chair Meifert opined that the Commission should be very specific with its recommendations, know what the areas of focus are, and lay it out clearly. He stated that, obviously, the Commission will not get everything they want, but it is the Commission's charge by the Council to provide our opinions and state what it is felt that the needs are. Commissioner Ellis stated that the Commission needs to let it be known that it's in favor of the new Art Center.

Commissioner La Valleur inquired if it will be Arts & Culture or just Arts. Commissioner Ellis replied that there is no terminology decided upon at this time. Commissioner Raeuchle added that green space should be a part of the plan.

Commissioner O'Dea stated that there are some people who'd like to see a rec center included, and Chair Meifert replied that that is already available at Edina High School. Chair Meifert stated that he believed the Commission should have something drawn up and ready to go by October. Commissioner La Valleur thought this should be even earlier and there should be a work session, perhaps in September.

Chair Meifert reminded the Commission of all of the green space now available in the City, taking into consideration Fred Richards Golf Course and Pentagon Park. He opined that it is important to get feedback from the community, noting that arts and culture is less intrusive than a rec center.

Commissioner Raeuchle felt that the Commission should not argue "against," but argue "for" what they felt was important. Commissioner La Valleur reminded the Commission that it was the working group from the community that had come up with the 11 areas of interest.

Mr. Frey reminded the Commission that this has been an idea for a very long time and that, in 2007, a sports dome was proposed but failed to be passed by the voters. Commissioner O'Dea reminded the Commission that the Council does not want the Fred Richards Golf Course to be converted to any type of single-use project. It is important to engage the community in this decision at all levels and all ages.

Commissioner Miller stated that it's important to expand the concept, not just making it bigger but including performing arts in the new Art Center. Chair Meifert stated that's important, since the City doesn't have a performing arts center presently.

Commissioner Raeuchle afforded the idea that their recommendations should be complete at least one week prior to the September meeting. Commissioner Bouassida inquired what should be done at this time. Mr. Frey stated that these minutes are distributed to the Councilmembers and they will see what this Commission is working on, and what is being discussing as to the recommendations.

**Motion by Commissioner Bouassida, amended by Commissioner Suckow, and seconded by Commissioner Raeuchle that the Art and Culture Commission take further action to participate in the creation of a Center for Art & Culture in the City of Edina and further directs the Grandview Committee to deliver a recommendation prior to the meeting in September.**

Ayes: Hafed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow. Motion carried.

## **B. Ways & Means Committee**

Commissioner Miller stated that there was a meeting of this committee on June 28<sup>th</sup>, during which they went over every word and every detail. Chair Meifert stated that some changes were made at that time. Commissioner Miller informed the Commission that the next step will be meeting with the City Council, doing a dry run of the presentation and having slides available. Chair Meifert has worked on this in the past. He stated that the City will also have overall recommendations by that time.

Commissioner Miller stated that the Commission should continue refining their recommendations, but work towards a final document. Commissioner Raeuchle stated that it would make sense to start working with the City on this at this time. Mr. Frey stated that they are beginning to do this now and Ms. Faus added that the timeline is ASAP. She has a meeting with Assistant City Manager Karen Kurt tomorrow. Assistant Manager Kurt is taking a lead role in putting the policy together for donations, etc. She stated that the City appreciates the hard work of this committee and they are planning to have a final draft in August.

Commissioner Raeuchle wondered if it made sense to present the Commission's recommendations to the City Council and opined that perhaps they should just work with City staff, giving them the Commission's feedback and getting feedback from the staff. Commissioner La Valleur reminded the Commission that they still have time for this since the meeting is scheduled for August.

Chair Meifert advised that he felt it would be best to have general guidelines, but allow room for the individual commissions to give their input as well. Commissioner Bouassida stated that nothing is preventing the Commission from starting to work on this now, so as not to forget about it.

Ms. Faus stated that she will show Karen Kurt what has been recommended, but that the Council doesn't want a specific policy, but something more general. That's one of the reasons it's taken 2 years to write this proposal. Mr. Frey stated that he will share what was discussed by the Commission tomorrow morning at the 9:00 a.m. meeting. Commissioner Raeuchle requested that Mr. Frey then share the feedback he receives with the Commission at the next meeting to ensure that the Commission's concepts have been reflected in what was transmitted in the meeting.

Chair Meifert stated that it would be best to work with corporations now who plan to be donors and not wait until February, which is after many corporations have made their donations for 2014.

Commissioner Miller inquired if other commissions are presently working on this. Ms. Faus stated that she was only aware of what the Park Board is presently working on. Commissioner Raeuchle reminded the Commission that the Historical Society is sponsoring the Historic Homes Tour, which is also doing fundraising.

Commissioner Bouassida stated that this is the time for the Commission to actively pursue this issue and it's essential that it is stated in the minutes as such. He asked that the Ways & Means Committee present an update to the Commission at its next meeting and supported making a motion stating the same. Chair Meifert inquired if this could be ready for the August meeting, which is the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. It was decided that this should be the plan.

**Motion by Commissioner Bouassida and seconded by Commissioner La Valleur that the Art and Culture Commission make a presentation regarding this issue at the August 28, 2014, meeting.**

Ayes: Hafeed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow. Motion carried.

#### **VIII. Correspondence and Petitions**

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

#### **IX. Chair and Board Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner O'Dea stated that she is not working on the Edina Film Festival any longer, so she's not sure what the status is. Chair Meifert added that he will be meeting with them and has some recommendations to provide. He would like to see it moved back to a working group.

Commissioner La Valleur inquired when the students will be starting. Commissioner Raeuchle responded that they will be nominated and start again in September. Commissioner La Valleur also inquired regarding Fall into the Arts. She stated that she's getting a schedule together in order to interact with the public. Mr. Frey is the Chair of this event, which is a benefit for Edina Crime Prevention. He stated that commissioners and authors from the Author's Studio can also speak with the public at the Public Art table.

Commissioner Raeuchle opined that funding should be put aside to discuss goals, etc. Many of the Commissioners were in agreement with that statement. Commissioner Ellis requested that Mr. Frey look at what has been done in the past and make some changes and provide this information for the next meeting of the Commission.

#### **X. Staff Comments**

No comments.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

**Motion by Commissioner La Valleur and seconded by Commissioner Miller that the Art and Culture Commission adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.**

Ayes: Hafeed Bouassida, Kandace Ellis, Barbara La Valleur, Ray Meifert, Anne Miller, Kitty O'Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and Steve Suckow. Motion carried.

# Public Art Edina Highlights

## Edina Arts and Culture Commission

July 15, 2014

- There was no Public Art meeting in July.
- We respectfully request all Commissioners, if you haven't already done so, download the new City mobile phone app **Edina to Go** and vote for your favorite sculpture for this year's People's Choice Award winner. There will also be ballots at today's meeting if you prefer.
- City Seeks Ideas On Public Art Spending is the topic of an online discussion at [www.SpeakUpEdina.org](http://www.SpeakUpEdina.org). The discussion focuses on spending public money on public art, is available until July 31.

In the discussion the City asks are:

1. How should permanent public art be purchased? Would you support the City spending public money on public art throughout the City?
2. Public art is currently displayed along the Edina Promenade, at 50th & France, Grandview Square Park and at Edina City Hall. Pieces are also on display at Edinborough Park and the Edina Senior Center. Where else would you like to see public art expanded?
3. If the City purchased public art, how much should the City spend per piece? Per year?

Findings from this discussion will be presented to the City Council July 15. Please go to [www.SpeakUpEdina.org](http://www.SpeakUpEdina.org) and express your thoughts. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate interest in public art to the City Council.