

WINONA FINE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 7, 2020 (Wenonah Room, City Hall, 3rd floor)

Present: Rebecca Sims, Theresa Remick, Alessandra Sulpy, Caitilin McCoy, Carrie Frederich, Roger Boulay, Ben Strand

Absent:

Staff: Lee Gundersheimer

Guests: Paul Schollmeier

Item I: Meeting called to order by Boulay at 5:33 p.m.

Item II: Approval of agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Remick, seconded by Sulpy. All voted aye..

Item III: Approval of minutes: A motion to approve the previous month's minutes was made by Frederich seconded by Sims. All voted aye.

Item IV: Financial Statement

Gundersheimer reported that because of the nature of being between budget years, exact totals and results especially on the encumbrances from 2019 were not available. He reported that \$400 had been spent for the reception and \$2800 was requested to be encumbered for Grants and \$1500 for the Poetry Walk (or as needed) These numbers were not fully accurate. The Commission expressed concern that the figure requested for encumbrance seemed incomplete. Gundersheimer stated he would be updating the Commission with exact figures as soon as he can obtain them.

Addendum They FAC finances are being more completely reported as below:

An expenditure of \$400 for the Blue Heron reception for food and beverage occurred in the 2019 budget In addition \$300 was spent for musicians for the same reception.

\$3,800 was requested to be encumbered for the 2019 Grants to occur in 2020. \$2,500 was requested to be encumbered for the Poetry Walk (or as needed.) These two requests have not been formally approved.

3,000 was budgeted for 2020 and an additional 15,000 was budgeted for the Arts Strategic Planning (with another to be budgeted in 2021).

\$3,823 additionally remains in the Blue Heron Fund

The Commission will also be informed of this update by email, along with these minutes.

Item V: New Business

A.) Discussion of applying for a Winona Foundation Grant. Boulay began a discussion of a desire to apply for a Winona Foundation grant for additional funds to continue the FAC grants in 2020. A committee was formed to begin the process immediately since the submission period has opened. Boulay, Frederich, and Strand agreed to make up the committee to submit a grant before the March deadline.

B.) Update on Glass Sculpture for KCC2020. Gundersheimer reported that Drutex Corporation has agreed to pay for and execute a five panel window art glass sculpture depicting Bytow iconic scenic elements and it will be 8feet tall and 4 feet wide. It will incorporate traditional Polish glass painting. The final date to be received has not been determined but it should arrive in coordination with the delegations from Winona returning or the Polish delegation arriving. Members of the FAC were disconcerted that they were not more involved in the process, given their expertise and the charter of the FAC to advise on City sponsored arts initiatives. Is there a plan for the installation, funding for it, moving the sculpture, input on the design, were all mentioned as ways that the FAC could have assisted. Gundersheimer stated he would relay these concerns to the WIFA committee that is charge of the project. A copy of the rough design draft was requested for the FAC and Gundersheimer will forward to the FAC as soon as it is received.

C.) Fundraising Efforts for the FAC for 2020

A discussion of ideas, continuing Strands discussion from a few months earlier began with the following ideas presented: A Poet/Creative Laureate Historical Event honoring the heritage of the position with a possible chat book to be sold. Piggybacking onto other FAC events such as the Poetry Walk to help raise funds. T-shirts similar to the popular Bluffs, Donuts, but more reflecting Winona Creatives. Stain Glass Tours being revived as fundraisers. A desire to keep the event “fun” was expressed as a key element. Concern that fundraising for “City” programs like the FAC could be perceived as “why aren’t tax dollars enough”, or that other not for profits and arts groups need the finite philanthropic funds and feel it is a problem. The discussion ended with a desire to keep exploring ideas that would be able to be executed with all these thoughts in mind.

Item VI: Old Business

- 1.) **Poetry Walk Update** – Boulay brought up the idea of an original font for the poetry walk to be created. Remick wondered about the cost. Boulay stated that it could be a for credit project of the WSU art and design department. The FAC expressed interest as long as it was a readable font. Boulay will continue that discussion with his faculty. A discussion to finalize the decision to include the previous Poet Laureates occurred and including the Associate Poet Laureate was also discussed. Remick made a motion to have five poems be included for outside the competition- 3 for the past Poet Laureates of Winona, one for the Associate Poet Laureate, and one for the (previously agreed on) MN Poet Laureate. The remaining poems will be selected according to funding available and length of selected submissions (which affects cost). Frederich seconded the motion and all voted in favor. As passed the minimum of contributed poems to be included should be 7 or 8 but may be as many as 10)

- 2.) **Masonic Theatre Update-** Gundersheimer reported on the passing by City Council of the funds to obtain plans for the HVAC system and that once that plan was completed and agreed on and the money allocated the work would start. There is a sense of urgency to make this occur now that the entire building has not HVAC going into Spring/Summer. Until the work is completed is very difficult to plan usage of the space for outside projects. As long as back up plans are acceptable should the building become unavailable, some groups have been using the space. It will go offline and be unable to be rented once the HVAC work begins fully. Boulay inquired about the wall cleaning, and Gundersheimer reported that that project was also put on hold until the HVAC work was completed. Further discussion of the fate of the Friendship Center location will occur at the same time and a full study and in depth discussion has been requested the Council.

Item VIII: Meeting Adjourned- At 7:06 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Remick. Selpy seconded. Meeting adjourned.