

**WINONA FINE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Feb. 4, 2020 (Wenonah Room, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

**Present:** Roger Boulay, Caitilin McCoy, Theresa Remick, Rebecca Sims, Ben Strand, Alessandra Sulpy  
**Absent:** Carrie Frederich  
**Staff:** Lee Gundersheimer

**Guests:** Danilo Bojic, WSU Art and Design

**Item I: Meeting called to order** by Boulay at 5:38 p.m.

**Item II: Approval of agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda as amended with discussion of Poetry Walk font moved to first order of business was made by Sims, seconded by Sulpy. All voted aye..

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

**Item IV: Financial Statement**

Gundersheimer reported that 7,500 was the starting balance in the budget for 2020 per the report he received. Because of the timing of the receiving of the report he needed to find out if that amount was inclusive of encumbrances or not. He reported that \$2,500 was encumbered for Poetry Walk and 3800 was encumbered for the FAC grants program for a total of 6300 in requested encumbrances from 2019. He also reported three expenses in Jan. \$25 for MN Citizens for the Arts dues, 1650 in grants allocations for a total spent in Jan of \$1675 leaving a working balance of \$5825. \$15,000 was also budgeted for the Arts Strategic Plan and remains untouched. Remick asked for a more complete itemized budget report at each meeting. A newly created budget report with planned expenses and revenue against actual expense has been attached to the minutes and will accompany each meeting report from now on.

\$3,823 additionally remains in the Blue Heron Fund, a separate line of the budget. Selpy motioned acceptance, Strand seconded and Remick abstained.

**Item V. New Business**

- A.) Poetry Walk Update** (moved ahead from Old Business) Boulay reported that a blind-submission version of the 35 entries had been compiled and that the selection committee would be meeting Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss rankings and hopefully make final selections. Danilo Bojic officially accepted a proposal for his students to create a new font for the Walk. They will report back to the commission in March with three options from group work in his Advanced Type class. The commission can then choose which they would like to use. Details and specs from the stamping company have been provided to Bojic. Bojic will provide 26 characters upper and 26 lower and a set of punctuation. The typeface will become property of the City to use as needed for other related uses. A vote was taken to not allow deceased poet submissions for this year after there was one submission requesting a family member who was killed be allowed to participate but that the submission rules would be revisited if and when the walk continued next year. Strand motioned, Selpy seconded; all voted in favor.

Downtown Strategic Plan Input. Boulay and Remick expressed concern that the Downtown Strategic plan lacked important specific information especially in the place making section (Page 42). They offered the following input: The last bullet point on page 44 first column should read Strategy: Embrace history and culture by HIRING local artists (not inviting). Also there was no mention of cafés and restaurants and food as important to placemaking. How could a downtown strategic plan not take into account the soon to be created Arts and Culture Plan? How could a successful plan be written before the Arts Plan? Also requested was finding out how much funding would be needed for F.T.E.'s to make placemaking goals a reality. For example how many FTE's would the study recommend to run a Downtown Art Center?

- B.)** Discussion of FAC goals and plans for 2020 was tabled until March Meeting.

**Item V: Old Business**

**A.) Discussion of applying for a Winona Foundation Grant.** Boulay reported that the committee met and would be applying for a grant. A partnership with Main Street had been discussed and Strand reported that he would have to still receive final clearance from his host organizations that wish to be protective of Main Street program branding of previous artist programs. Boulay will draft a grant (to help add funds for future artist grants) and share it with the commission. Hopeful target: 10K in total, FAC2.5K, Main Street 2.5K, Winona Foundation 5K for artist grants.

**B.) Masonic Theatre Update-** Gundersheimer reported on the success of Can't Dance and that there would be Let's Dance Dance parties to continue to use the space until it goes offline in May right after Midwest Music Fest. Remick was concerned that the March Dance Party was a direct conflict with the new Driftless Dance Festival. She made the following request to be added to the record:

I am requesting that the city provide the commission with documentation for the following:

- Is there a policy or process in place for evaluating events proposed in City spaces, including the Masonic? If yes, please provide that to the commission.

-What criteria does the City use to decide on arts events that it will produce/present using taxpayer funds?

- How does the City plan to engage area arts and culture organizations to ensure City events do not overlap with or pull revenue from these organizations?

Gundersheimer then said the City would look into an alternate date for that Dance Party or perhaps partnering with the Festival by moving the event to a time after the Driftless Event and having folks come over to dance afterwards.

Remick expressed concern that it still might conflict with attendance and this was a new signature Festival in town and the City should do everything they could to ensure its success. It was agreed to discuss further.

**Item VIII: Meeting Adjourned-** At 7:02 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Sims. Selpy seconded. Meeting adjourned.