

WINONA FINE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March. 4, 2020 (Wenonah Room, City Hall, 3rd floor)

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

Absent: Rebecca Sims

Staff: Lee Gundersheimer, Steve Sarvi

Guests: Michelle Alexander, City Councilperson, Danilo Bojic, WSU Art and Design, Annie Treichel, Morgan Sumter, Camden Ellingson, Design Team Leaders, WSU students

Item I: Meeting called to order by Boulay at 5:37 p.m.

Item II: Approval of agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Frederich, seconded by Strand. All voted aye.

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

Item IV: Discussion of KCC2020 Gift from the City of Bytow- Boulay requested clarification of why the FAC was not consulted on the Glass painted window that the City of Bytow and Drutex Corporation is giving Winona as part of the Sister City program and KCC2020 Festival. Councilperson Alexander, co-chair of the KCC2020 Festival, and Director of Winona International Friendship Association (the sister city program) explained that this was special situation because gifts are often exchanged between the Sister Cities, and there is not advice or any feedback given. She stated examples such as the stain glass gift she presented to Bytow last year. The manufacturer in Bytow that is giving the gift has shared their plans and a tentative schedule but that to request any other information, or to give feedback, would be considered improper and possibly insulting. Boulay stated that it was in the FAC charter for the Commission to weigh in on any gifts to the City of Art. Sarvi commented that the original intention may have been for private gifts of art and more of a public nature. It was suggested that a clarification of wording might be added to state that certain gifts, such as through the Sister City programs, ought to be exempt from the need for advice and feedback. The FAC agreed to revisit their original charter's language to see if a more exact language might be helpful in such situations. Boulay offered his services as needed once the gift arrived or to help develop a plan for its display once those details were obtained hopefully during the visit to Bytow in May.

Item IV: Financial Statement- (Moved to after discussion of KCC2020 gift)

Gundersheimer presented new report that was deemed confusing. Remick asked for a more conventional profit and loss formatted report. Gundersheimer reported the FAC has spent \$2,675 to date including \$1,000 in Feb for Creative Laureate. If all encumbrances are approved the remaining balance is \$21, 625.00. \$15,000 of that was designated for the Arts Strategic Plan. Gundersheimer requested that the FAC amend the Creative Laureate position statement with a fee schedule for payment. Boulay added it as an item to the April agenda.

\$3,823 additionally remains in the Blue Heron Fund, a separate line of another budget. Frederich motioned acceptance, Selpy seconded and all voted aye.

Item V. New Business

A.) Poetry Walk Update

Danilo Bojic and his class made presentations in three groups for possible newly designed typeface fonts for the Poetry Walk. Mockups and full character maps for each design were shared:

- 1.) Annie Trichel presented for the Devoted Design group. The inspiration for this design were public parks elements such as bike racks and signage and the shapes they bring to the cityscape. Their design was described as friendly and playful.
- 2.) Morgan Sumter presented for Creative Visionaries with a semi-stenciled look to provide a handcrafted feel to echo the hand crafted sense of the poems. Connection was a key design concept as well, borrowing from the bridge and roads, to show a gap in many font letters enhancing the connectiveness of the words themselves.
- 3.) Camdon Ellingson presented for Hidden Path Designs and their font derived inspiration from the River and Bluffs and emphasized a flowing shape with the letters almost fitting together to show a collective connection.

The FAC chose to look at the samples that will be provided by the teams and class over the next few weeks and make a decision at the next meeting.

Boulay reported that four selections from the community poems were chosen by the jury and along with the five Poet Laureate choices would give the Poetry Walk nine poems to be placed in the walk. Remick asked if a specific number of poems that would be selected had been previously announced. Gundersheimer stated that meeting minutes previously stated 10 poems and then might be amended to add more when Poet Laureate selections were decided on, but the call for submissions did not state a specific number. The consensus from the commission was that the process should then move forward, and a discussion of how to announce the winners publically was begun but the decision of how and when to have a public announcement was tabled until the April meeting. Sarvi reported that it would be hard to have a formal date when all nine poems would be cast into the sidewalks because the scheduling of the replacements of the sidewalks varies by contractor availability and weather. There was discussion of an event using the font chosen with mock ups of the poems and an introduction of the Poets chosen in April (Poetry Month) possibly at the 20th City Council meeting.

- B.) Downtown Strategic Plan Input.** The list of Strategic Task Force members who have been invited was presented: Margaret Shaw Johnson as chair, Laurie Lucas, Luke Sims, Vicki Englich, Greg Neidhard, and Jon Swanson. The FAC was invited to add the remaining three names to the Task Force and after a brief discussion of a desire to make sure diversity and that as many constituent groups as possible be reflected on the Task Force, the FAC decided to bring back nominations of names for consideration to the April Meeting.
- C.) Discussion of City Arts Planning and Programming** was begun with Remick stating that there is a strong lack of communication and strategy of event types that did not overlap with existing events in the current City arts programming. She reiterated a desire for the FAC to have a better sense of what was happening when and why. There was some discussion about who decides what events Winona Arts puts on versus the FAC. Do they weigh in on Winona Arts events? Remick asked for some policy about how events are selected. What is the role of WINONArts in putting forward events? Boulay echoed her concerns and stated that for example if someone was only attending one dance event all year, it was not helpful for the City to be programming free dance events. City events would tend to be the ones that people attend rather than those they have to pay for. Remick followed up by saying there seemed to be no checking of calendars for event planning, and stated that Gundersheimer himself said that certain groups were given preferential treatment such as MWMF using the Masonic Theatre when others could not. Gundersheimer had stated previously that the City decided to delay the start of the HVAC work in the Masonic so that MWMF could use the space. Gundersheimer replied that what was communicated was that because of the unplanned delay of the start of the HVAC work on the Festival would be able to use the space. He went on to say that the unfortunate delays in the HVAC schedule did however help the Festival and that they were glad to be able to house it (and some other Not-for profit rentals) before the work would actually begin. It had also been stated in the previous meeting that the problem with having construction and renovation in popular buildings is that if groups wanted to use them, they would need back up plans in case the spaces were no longer available. This is far from ideal, and will not be forever, but is the unfortunate situation now as improvements are being made. The goal of the use of the former Masonic right now, is to have lights on for as many folks and types of events (with little or no budget) as possible since the space will be dark for almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year. The goal is to show validity of the space to help raise awareness of the future possibilities.

Item V: Old Business

- A.) Masonic Theatre WINONArts Update-** Tabled because the meeting was adjourned.
B.) Commission Members announcements- Tabled because the meeting was adjourned.

Item VIII: Meeting Adjourned- At 7:32 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Remick. Selpy seconded. Meeting adjourned.