

## WINONA FINE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 4th, 2020 (By Zoom Digital Meeting)

**Present by Zoom:** Roger Boulay, Alessandra Sulpy, Rebecca Sims, Theresa Remick, Eric Heukeshoven, Sam Zierden, Judy Myers, Carrie Frederich, Ben Strand

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Chad Ubl, Lee Gundersheimer

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

**Item II: Approval of agenda:** Ubl requested Old Business A.) WINONArts programming discussion to be moved up to New Business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Myers, seconded by Frederich. All voted aye.

**Item III Approval of minutes from July.** - Remick noted Mueller stated a preference of names for the Poetry walk, McCoy was not present at the official July meeting. Jovy Rockey's name will be corrected. Myers motioned, Strand seconded as amended

**Item IV Financial Statement:** Gundersheimer reported the following:

Gundersheimer reported: Please note the report states the 5,000 from the Winona Foundation was received only for purposes current discussion of next plans. The Grants Committee is working with the Foundation to receive payment which was lost in the mailing of the check. This payment should be reconciled by August report.

Balance to date 23,977.56 (18,977.56 in hand- waiting on the 5K from Winona Foundation)  
Expenses to date 5,322.44

The following assume payment from the Foundation yet to be officially received:

Winona Foundation Grant remaining 3,623.81

Remaining FAC original budget to spend outside of Foundation Grant 3,353.75

Frederich motioned approval. Strand seconded. All voted aye, motion passed unanimously.

### V. New Business

A.) FAC meeting frequency- Ubl reported that more frequent meetings might help with the communication issues with the City as other commissions do that have larger work agendas. Frederich followed stating that she had this desire pre-covid but more special committees might be a solution too. She would only be in favor

of two meetings a month. Myers concurred and felt it would help with the expansive agendas. Remick spoke of the history of this decision, it had been discussed many times previously. She felt that some of the work could be handled by the City Staff and the bylaws might guide as to what would be appropriate. Remick also felt that project updates on each agenda item might help with the length of meetings. Strand stated he was leaning toward more meetings. In the three years of serving, he noted that there are many more tasks and agenda items being taken on now. Twice a month for one hour would be a more manageable schedule. Sims concurred with Remick that City Staff might take on more work and updates would be helpful. She would agree with the decision, but if the shoring up occurred, it might not be necessary. Frederich asked what the City staff could take on. Ubl stated there is a line that must be respected, it can work both ways, but it is possible to do more. The communication would need to be open and trusting. The City would need to be open about timeline and work load and vice versa. It is helpful when the Commission takes on the work too, it illustrates community involvement.

Remick was concerned that there mission creep outside of the bylaws of the commission. Ubl explained the difference between library and park boards that gave much more input and set policy. In the 80's the city went away from Boards to the charter system, that has commissions that respond to the authority of City Council. A concern is that the Commission is not a Board, and that the Commission should not be directing the City staff in what they do. Input and guidance are always welcomed. Two questions are sometimes asked. What about the example of advising on arts projects. Also what about programming? Advising on programming, the example of Levee Park was given. Live @the Levee, why is the City doing music events? We get that you spent money building the park, but please do not do music, others can, but program Levee Park in other ways. The advice that was given in that instance was taken.

Sulpy wondered if there two meetings, could one be just a sub-committee meeting. Frederich stated that funding allocations made the timing of every month difficult. The voting only once a month is a delay that often does not work.

Boulay noted that there have been two special meetings in the last six months. It is an exciting time to be on the Fine Arts Commission. He would be in support of two meetings. Ubl said if the staff provided updated agenda items, it might make the meetings much quicker. Myers agreed that if the meetings were planned ahead of time it would be effective for scheduling. Boulay asked for a motion to move to two monthly meetings. Frederich motioned and Strand seconded. Beginning in September the FAC would meet on the first and third Tuesdays, both at 5:30pm.

B.) FAC input and joint planning of WINONArts programming. (Moved from old business at Ubl's request.) Ubl began discussion on should there be greater communication and joint programs partnering with the City. It is a spectrum, all the way from advice for new projects or the direction of what the programming should be. Greater communication would help on both sides, and perhaps a smaller sub-committee that met with the City Manager and Staff would help with

this. The arts plan will help solve some things, but it would be great for the two groups to get ahead of the planning. Boulay felt that a new paradigm would be helpful in terms of programming. Remick appreciated that new model of a small sub group for planning, but the entire commission should be able to give input and feedback. Boulay felt the suggestions were well received by Ubl and thanked him. How would the suggestion be carried out? Ubl stated that the City would set up the mechanism to make this smaller program advisory group and report back.

C.) Discussion of 2021 Fine Arts Commission Grants – Remick stated that the timing last year was because there were a larger amount of funds available because of the encumbrance from one time unused Arts plan funding. It might make sense to delay until the next budget round when funding was known. Gundersheimer reported when asked that the budgets proposed City wide were the same as 2019. The budgets were being negotiated now to be voted on later in the year. Myers thought shorter or smaller grants might be more helpful and doable in this unprecedented time. Remick asked could we not do sustainability grants that were not project related because of the emergency. Boulay suggested six \$500 grants might be more helpful. Sulpy and Strand agreed. He mentioned the Main Street program smaller grants were helpful in the past. Myers asked if this needed to be decided today? Remick mentioned that the specific grants program may not be needed this year and might wait until more possible. Boulay updated the current grants program and extension plan. He again suggested six grants for \$500 each for emergency funding. Remick suggested an update for the scope of the award and a subcommittee would be needed to update the judging rubric for Covid relief. Myers, Remick, and Sulpy will be a subcommittee look at everything from last year and report back in Septemeber.

D.) Preliminary discussion of Fine Arts Commission Awards- Boulay updated the new commissioners on what the Awards are, and then asked how do we do that this year? Do we need to give out these awards this year since so much was cancelled or not possible? Remick mentioned that these awards honor longevity and careers, and some are doing work right now. Remick asked for the list of past winners and nominees. Zierden wondered if this year could showcase new projects, since it such a different year. Boulay asked for a list of the projects Zierden might be considering. Frederich agreed this change might be a good idea and so did Sulpy. Take advantage of the weird year, and honor those who did out of the box assistance or work this year. Myers thought it could be a combination of both. Zierden wondered if the criteria would be have you started a project that made a meaningful contribution to arts in Winona. Remick did not agree. She felt that exemplary contributions were important to the awards purpose. She stated: The FAC award is an important part of the FAC history and makes an impact to the Council and community. Remick suggested the other idea could be a separate initiative. Frederich agreed with Remick. At Remick's suggestion: A press release will go out to ask the public for input for the first time, to allow for community input. Nominees will be discussed at the next meeting.

D.) Scheduling and Publicizing 2020 FAC annual meeting to update/answer questions from the public- Boulay began the discussion that the Oct Meeting could be the awards honoring, like last year and the public meeting. Zierden suggested the Levee as a possibility. Remick wondered if the FAC would we have grantees by then. More discussion occurred on possible timing that concluded with Boulay suggesting tentatively scheduling the meeting for the public at the Oct. 21 FAC meeting.

## **VI. Old Business**

- A.) Continued discussion on Anthem Skatepark mural- Dropped because Anthem decided not to pursue. Frederich reported that the mural was not happening on the same timeline, it may not happen at all and the item should be tabled indefinitely.
- B.) Update on Chalk the Walk project- Boulay may collaborate with East Rec Center to complete the project. Remick asked if there are some that have not received packets, Boulay said, a few. Remick offered to help distribute those. Gundersheimer reported Ali and Lauren, staff from East rec, have emailed Boulay. He also suggested contacting Jamie Schwaba or MMAM. Boulay will begin the discussion with East Rec.
- C.) Update on Poetry Walk and location of Poems Gundersheimer gave an update that the name stamps are being fabricated and should make their arrival in time to be incorporated. The placement of the poems has been decided by the City and the businesses involved. A map will be made. Remick asked if there would be collateral at the visitor center. Gundersheimer said a brochure and digital version are planned.
- D.) Update on Winona Foundation Grant projects- Sharon's email on her project was reported by Frederich. She will be partnering with Dine Out Downtown. Strand concurred.
- E.) Update and discussion on Fundraising event/series of events to raise money for grants- Tabled to next meeting.
- F.) Discussion of what the arts page of the new city website should look like and include. Boulay asked for this to be an agenda item for the next meeting. The City has not made a final decision on the fate of the stand alone WINONArts page. It most likely will be folded into the City's park and rec and FAC pages on the new website. Boulay asked when the site would be taken down. Gundersheimer reported the final decision was being discussed but it would most likely coincide with the launch of the new City website.

G.) Update on Masonic Theatre physical plant renovations- Tabled to September meeting after the promised update from Ubl is received.

H.) Commissioner announcements of programming (as needed)- Frederich announced MMAM's virtual second Saturday. Heukeshoven reported on Jazz Jams at Island City. He mentioned how people are hungering for programming. Strand reported that Treedome wants to program 5 concert and films at the Bandshell drive in movie style. If funding can occur. Myers announced that Mister James and Mister Jeff was awarded an honorable mention award for Margaret Shaw Johnson in a nationwide play competition.

**Item IV: Meeting Adjourned-** At 6:06 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Heukeshoven, seconded by Myers. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.