

## **MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES**

October 11, 2016, 5:30 P.M.

Lowe Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Pat Schmidt, Charlene Briggs, Brenda Kowalsky, Elizabeth Wilson, Angie Pierce Jennings (phone)

ABSENT: Dennis Frevert

STAFF: Mary Ann Bries

GUESTS:

### Art in the Alley

The council can watch the time-lapse video showing the construction work at the project site that is available on the City's You-Tube page. Phil and Ben High are doing an in-kind contribution for the City's alley project by using their photography skills for a video of the progress of the project. Fuf shared Karen Hoyt's update on the Art in the Alley project. The information Karen provided is attached to the bottom of the minutes. Fuf provided a clarification that they do not have the easement agreement with Dave Martin but are working on it. They are also working with trash haulers and hope to have the necessary easements and service agreements in place by the end of November.

### Sculpture Committee

Brenda updated the council on the Sculpture Trail. The committee was pleased with the entries they received with their second call. Two of the pieces they picked are under budget so they are considering a third sculpture. The piece chosen for the entry into the park is shaped like a wreath with reed, grasses and cattails. This piece was done by the same artist as the amphitheater. The second piece is made of metal rebar and consists of a buffalo, Indian and another object. The committee is working on formal contracts and plan to have the contracts signed this year. The committee would like to hold a grand opening in the spring and considered the same date as the Spring Picnic on the Prairie concert (June 17).

### MAC Brochure

Mary Ann will send some of the new brochures to the Chamber at City Hall and also to the library. The council will look for places they can set out the new brochure also.

### Exhibits

The artist's reception for the September/October exhibit of Dianna Dunn and Jan Bell was attended by 20 people on September 15. The school exhibit of Linn Grove Elementary will be Thursday, October 13 and Fuf will be able to work at it. The November/December/January exhibit will be Mary Weaver and Lynda Black-Smith. The art exchange will be Saturday, October 29. Fuf and her husband will be able to help from 8 to 9:30. Charlene and Brenda will also be able to help with the exchange. The artist's reception will be Thursday, November 10 with the show being taken down on Saturday, January 28. February is the college exhibit of Mt. Mercy, Cornell and Kirkwood. Fuf is contacting the colleges. Red Chamber Concert will be on Thursday, March 30, 2017 starting at 7 p.m. Iowa Art Quilters will be exhibiting in July and August of 2017. Fuf has received several inquiries to exhibit at the art gallery and will be getting examples of the art work for the Art Council to view.

The Marion Art Council received information regarding the Cedar Rapids Art Museum' new exhibit opening and also an invite to Silos & Smokestacks Awards night.

#### Coffeehouse Night

Terry McCauley performed at the October 7 Coffeehouse Night with 75 people attending. Angie updated the council on the performers for the Coffeehouse Nights this season. The November 4 performer will be Mary Reasoner and Laurie Haag (offshoot of the group Two Bit Maniac). Karla Ruth will be performing on December 2. The Bernemann Brothers Trio will be performing at the February 3 Coffeehouse Night. Angie is waiting for confirmation from Awful Purdies for the March 3 event. The April 7 performer will be Acoustic Open Jam Session led by Lori Blattner.

The number of posters each council member takes was brought up. According to the December 8 minutes, the number of posters taken by each member: Brenda 2 (1 save, 1 Huk Printing), Dennis 5 (Wit's End, Library, Farmers State Bank, 2 City Hall), Charlene 2 (Blue Strawberry, Cedar Rapids Library), Fuf 2 (Linn-Mar schools) and Pat 5 (Iowa City New Pi, Iowa City Library, Iowa City Bread Garden, Coralville New Pi, Cedar Rapids New Pi). Mary Ann will check with the council members if they will be able to pick up their number of posters before printing.

#### Hotel/Motel Tax Grant

Angie is working with Susan Werner's manager regarding the contract for her performance at the Picnic on the Prairie Spring Concert on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Once the contract is approved and signed, details for the concert will begin.

#### Budget

Mary Ann informed the council the 2017-2018 Budget has to be to Mike Carolan by the second week in November. After meeting with Karlene, Fuf will meet with Angie, Elizabeth and Dennis to discuss the MAC Budget for 2017-2018. The council members discussed the purchase of a sound system from the current budget.

#### Old Business

The council asked about a sign on County Home Road for the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. Mike Carolan will look at the benefits of having the sign verses the cost due to people using GPS to find locations. Mary Ann mentioned this is something MAC could include in their 2017-2018 Budget if they felt the need for one.

Fuf will work on the details of holding an Adult Plien Aire workshop in conjunction with the August Picnic on the Prairie. The Plien Aire workshop could be held from 8 to 2 on Saturday, August 19 and 9 to 1 on Sunday, August 20. Mary Ann reserved the Arts & Environment Center for these dates while the details are planned.

Pat will follow up with the Library Director about an art display from local schools during the Marion Arts Festival. Pat will also follow up with Lon Pluckhahn, the city manager, regarding public art. Lon was going to send Pat the Public Art policy that the City had so the Arts Council will know how to proceed,

#### New Business

None

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lowe Park Art and Environment Center. \*\*May meet on Tuesday, November 1 due to the election being held on November 8.

### Alley Update (from Karen Hoyt)

*An easement agreement with Dave Martin has now made it possible for us to offer a contract to Douglas Lochner for his high-tech installation in the green door area of his building! It will most likely be installed in the spring.*

*The paving by Central States Concrete is complete. The light poles and decorative brickwork will soon be installed, as well as a compass rose where the 2 alleyways intersect. The construction work will be finished before the end of October, and the artwork will be installed in November. We're planning on a ribbon cutting before Thanksgiving, and a Grand Opening in conjunction with the Marion Arts Festival on May 20.*

*Artist's profiles are being shared with the public via WordPress and ArtPlace blogs, the City's Facebook page, and the Times. Posters will also be displayed in a vacant window next to the 11<sup>th</sup> Street alley entrance.*

*Cultural programming for the alleys remains a big question mark. There are many ideas floating around, but no framework for implementation. MAC collaboration is welcome.*

