Visual Arts Commission Minutes  
Thursday, January 8, 2015 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Cedar Rapids City Hall – Blairs Ferry Conference Room  
101 First Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52401

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioner</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Not Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Stamats, Chairman</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Knierim</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arbe Bareis</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mel Andringa</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilee Fowler</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Lynn Ocken</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Green</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Vogel</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Mary Ottoson</td>
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The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm by Chairman Stamats

1. **Public Comment**  
   No members of the public were present to offer comment.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2014**  
   A motion was made by Fowler, seconded by Bareis, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting with unanimous approval.

3. **Officer Elections**  
   A motion was made by Knierim, seconded by Bareis, with unanimous approval, to appoint Bill Stamats as Chair and Barbara Green as Vice Chair of the Visual Arts Commission for the calendar year 2015.

4. **Working Groups:**  
   Chairman Stamats reported that he is working with the interns to develop a brochure by the end of the month. The plan is to develop a 10 page brochure that can be expanded in the future. Chairman Stamats will continue to work with the interns

   Staff reported that they are working on obtaining quotes to get paintings reframed and placed in rooms at City Hall. Staff is also working to obtain quotes to have the Dick Pinney Tree and Terpischore statue moved and placed at the City Services Building and City Hall Lobby, respectively.
5. **Relocation of Sky Blade**

In December the Visual Arts Commission discussed potential locations for Skyblade, the sculpture along 3rd Avenue SE in Greene Square. The Commission discussed placing the sculpture at the intersection of 1st Street and 5th Avenue SE, but wanted staff to return with other potential sites.

Staff brought forward options for other potential sites that were suggested by the VAC, including locations in Sunner Park (off of 8th Avenue SW next to the river), the riverfront between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, and the intersection of 2nd Street SE and 8th Avenue. Staff reported that locations next to the river would be problematic due to impending flood control construction.

After discussion, a motion was made by Stamats, seconded by King, with unanimous approval, to locate Skyblade in front of the Economic Alliance building at 1st Street and 5th Avenue SE.

6. **Public Art Project – Dreamcatcher**

The Visual Arts Commission reviewed the application of Michael Jennings to construct a dreamcatcher and donate it to the City as a public art piece.

The project was previewed and discussed at the December 2014 VAC Meeting.

Michael Jennings presented his plan to build a dreamcatcher and display it in a public location as part of a fundraiser for a local charity. The piece would be approximately 15’ in diameter, which would make it the largest in the world. It would be constructed primarily of natural materials which would be expected to last 8-10 years without maintenance, at which time the piece would be either removed or refurbished. The construction and installation costs for the piece would be covered by the applicant.

The consensus of the VAC was that if the project was accepted for City property that a more natural setting would be appropriate. The suggested location was Prairie Park Fishery.

The Commission had concern about the city accepting the long term care and maintenance of the piece. The projected lifespan of the piece was stated to be 8-10 years. While the Commission appreciated the artists commitment to maintain the piece, the Commission is reluctant to recommend acceptance of pieces that are temporary in nature without firm plans for the future of the piece. The City has limited resources to care for pieces in the collection and is concerned about accepting an unknown future cost to repair or remove the piece and restore a portion of city parkland.
There were concerns about the real or perceived religious nature of the piece. The Commissioners were concerned that while the piece itself may not be controversial itself, accepting it into the collection may open the door for future requests for religious themed artwork to be accepted into the City’s collection.

A motion was made by Stamats and seconded by Fowler to recommend denial of the application to City Council. The motion to deny passed on a 5-3 vote.

7. **Announcements / Items for next meeting**

8. **Adjournment**
   The Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

   *Next Meeting: February 12, 2015*