**MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES**

July 12, 2016, 5:30 P.M.

Lowe Park Art and Environment Center

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Mary Ann Bries

GUESTS:

Art in the Alley

A time-lapse video showing the construction work at the project site 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. Eric Zichterman of Central States Concrete in Marion reports that MidAmerican Energy has completed their upgrade of gas lines throughout the project site. Nelson Electric is now installing underground cables that will provide essential lighting and electricity. A stage has been planned for a spot near the center of the project area adjacent to Iowa Realty. Ryan Companies has generously offered to provide a wall for the back of the stage. This generous in-kind contribution will serve as a colorful backdrop for performers while providing an 8 by 23 foot canvas for the only painted mural. Marion's Artist Selection Panel is very pleased with a mural concept featuring Iowa's native birds proposed by Miami artist Cecilia Lueza.

Sculpture Committee

Brenda and Pat updated the council with a slideshow of art pieces. They had 56 entries with 6 giving their concept for Lowe Park Sculpture Trail. The committee is having their next meeting on July 28. The committee's goal is to have something chosen by fall and an opening ceremony in the spring.

Exhibits

The July/August exhibit is Tamera and Brian Jensen. The artist's reception will be Thursday, July 14. The art exchange for the next artist will be Saturday, August 27. The September/October exhibit will be Dianna Dunn and Jan Bell. The artist's reception will be September 15. Iowa Art Quilters will be exhibiting in July and August of 2017. Fuf will be contacting other artists who wish to exhibit at the art gallery. Fuf will then set the winter/spring exhibit schedule.

Coffeehouse Night

The dates for 2016 - 2017 season are set as October 7, November 4, December 2, February 3, March 3 and April 7.

Hotel/Motel Tax Grant

The Art Council received $4,967.74 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Grant. The money needs to be spent by June 30, 2017 with a report given regarding the event. The council decided to hold a Picnic on the Prairie Spring Concert on Saturday, June 17.

Picnic on the Prairie

Picnic on the Prairie will be Saturday, August 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Carol Montag and Carlis Faurot will perform. The posters are ready for council members to distribute. Mary Ann will check with Friends of the Park helping with parking, trash cans set out, and having someone work the front desk. Angie will meet Doug for the sound set-up. The other council members will arrive at 6 that evening.

Budget

The council discussed purchasing a small canopy and a portable table to use at the different functions they attend. They thought a small canopy would be around $50 - $100 and the portable table would be $30 - $50. Fuf will talk to Karlene when would be a good time to go to Sam's to purchase these items. Mary Ann gave the council the new Budget worksheet for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.

Old Business

Janice White is a retired art teacher that is interested in becoming an associate member. Fuf will ask Janice if she would like to attend the next reception and Picnic on the Prairie.

Charlene presented a rough draft of the new MAC brochure. She would appreciate everyone looking at for spelling errors and any other input on the brochure.

The council mentioned getting a sign on County Home Road for the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. Mary Ann will check to see what the steps are and what cost would be.

New Business

Iowa Arts Council Summit is on August 5 in Des Moines. Jamie Bennett, the director for ArtPlace America, will be one of the presenters. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, let the council know that the City would pay the $50 registration fee for city representatives to attend the summit. Details regarding the Iowa Arts Council Summit is on the IAC website. If any council members are interested in attending, please contact Amanda at City Hall.

Red Cedar Chamber would like to hold another concert at Lowe Park on April 6.

Mike Brandt held an art class with 76 students. Fuf mentioned letting him use the school exhibit wall to exhibit some of the artwork from the classes. The council was wondering if the room met fire code with the number of tables he brought in for his class.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,   
August 9, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lowe Park Art and Environment Center.