MINUTES

Coralville Arts Commission
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
12:00 p.m.
ZOOM


Staff Present: Evan Hilsabeck, Nancy Mayfield, Sherri Proud

Approval and Comments

1. Call to Order: 12:02 PM
2. Citizen Comments: None
3. Approval of Agenda: Approved, with update to approve the December Minutes (not September)
4. Approval of September Minutes: Approved with corrections to minor typos (Ann/Wes)

Reports

5. City Council — Hai Huynh
   a. Congratulations to Evan and the Commission on the receipt of the Governor’s CARES Grant!
   b. The Community Meal was a huge success; we ended up serving over 400 people (after expecting 300)
   c. There are some additional grants we might want to consider. Will send info to Evan.
   d. There will be some great opportunities for public art along the Clear Creek, and we hope the Arts Commission will be a part of that.
   e. Happy New Year, everyone!
6. Parks and Recreation — Sherri Proud: 12:09 PM
   a. The upcoming stream bank mitigation project is an important one that has wide-reaching impact.
   b. We have put in a request for funding for public art (a mural, etc.) into the City of Coralville budget request.
c. In December, Sherri organized the photos of our art we currently have, and compiled a list of what we still need for the website.

7. Managing Director — Evan Hilsabeck 12:13 PM
   a. Our End of Year fundraising mailing was our largest ever with over 4k mailers sent out, and we surpassed our amended fundraising budget. The final number should be about $25k. Huge thank you to Wes and the other volunteers and staff who helped put the mailings together.
      i. The average donation was about $128.
      ii. About 30% of our responses were new donors.
   b. One of our costume storage spaces is being moved to another unit in the same building.
   c. We have several rentals that hope to have live events this Spring, so we are getting our boots on the ground to enact our plans for reopening safely.
   d. We are re-vamping the website with CivicEngage. The new website will have greatly improved functionality and appearance, and we look forward to presenting an up-to-date face to the public.
   e. We are so grateful to the Iowa Arts Council and their team for helping us put together the grant request.

8. City Circle Theatre Company — Wes Habley 12:21 PM
   a. The February show, First Date, has started rehearsing and is moving forward.
   b. There will be three one-act comedies in March. The playwrights are local: Chris Okiishi, Brian Tanner, and Janet Schlapkohl.
   c. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group has a meeting a week from this Saturday to discuss actions City Circle should take. They have been interviewing a wide variety of people for input on how to better engage with new audiences/participants.
   d. We are putting together small, low-budget shows for the fall that can be streamed or not, depending on circumstances.
e. Evan: The Christmas Cabaret was a huge success! A huge thank you to Liz, Katie Colletta, and the entire team for putting in an immense amount of effort to make a wonderful show. The Mayor enjoyed it so much he shared it with several members of congress.

f. Sherri: Rick Crooks, who was a major driver of City Circle and the Festival of Trees, passed away last week. He will be very missed.

9. Young Footliters Youth Theatre – Evan Hilsabeck: 12:28 PM
   a. We had our first Reunion over the holidays; it was a Zoom cast party for about 30 kids, and was a lot of fun.
   b. Our next play is written by Matt Falduto: Storytelling, A Pandemic Play. It includes a series of fairy tales that come to life in the telling. Auditions are this weekend, and the show will take place via Zoom in March.
   c. Jason Sifford has joined the team putting together theater summer camps with Katie Colletta.

**Old Business**

1. COVID-19 Planning and Impacts
   a. Nothing new to report. We are planning on the UI Opera to be in the space this Spring, although probably without an audience. The Fall opera has been shifted back a month, which was a herculean effort but helps ensure the possibility of a safe, live performance.

**New Business**

1. CCPA Fundraising Drive – See Evan’s earlier report

2. Evan will reach out to the people who volunteered to be on a sub-committee to discuss how the Commission can support public art.

**Conclusion**

1. Comments from the Commission
   a. Susan is happy to be in Florida instead of Iowa right now.

2. Adjourn: 12:34 (Wes/Bob)