

## MINUTES

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

Present: Susan Sondrol Jones, Ann Burton, Carrie Houchins-Witt, Bob Goodfellow,  
Wes Habley, Hai Huynh

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 Footlites 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)