

CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
AL LARSON PRAIRIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS / CONFERENCE ROOM A

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Cain
Jon Cunningham
Bobbi Marchuk
Kevin Miller
Michael Nejman
Marilyn Pande
Minal Patel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn Karr
Michael Kozakis
Bette Solomon
Rob Ward

STAFF PRESENT: Tiana Weiler, Director of Cultural Services
Rob Pileckis, Assistant Director

STAFF ABSENT: Alissa Brunet, Production Coordinator

AUDIENCE: None

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Cain called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nejman made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of Monday, February 26. Ms. Marchuk seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Weiler reported that the 2024 Prairie Arts Festival will feature 108 artists, along with 10 food vendors and live music.

Ms. Weiler advised that the deadline to make a contribution to the Prairie Center Arts Foundation for the 2023-24 fiscal year ends on Apr. 30. Cash donations of \$250 and up will be acknowledged on the foundation's donor wall in the theatre lobby.

Ms. Weiler also advised that the April 22 Cultural Commission meeting will be dedicated to a presentation by the village's legal team on the Open Meetings Act.

CONTINUING ITEMS

1. 2024-25 Programming

Mr. Pileckis reported that programming for the 2024-25 season is nearly complete and that there

is room in the schedule for a season headliner. Mr. Pileckis invited Cultural Commission members to suggest possible headlining acts.

2. Young Artists Programs

Mr. Pileckis advised on the following programs:

The Schaumburg Youth Symphony Orchestra held its 2nd annual Concerto concert on Sunday, March 17. The soloist was Fremd senior Kailene Liao, who performed the Sibelius violin concerto. The concert also featured the premiere of “Vindication,” a 5-minute work composed by West Aurora High School senior Daniel Currie. An audience of 110 attended.

26 films have been selected from 76 submissions for this year’s Screen Test Student Fest, to be held April 12 and 13. Eleven films by area students will be shown at the Prairie Center for Screen Test Local Fest on Friday, April 12. Seven films by students in elementary and jr. high school will be streamed live the morning of Saturday April 13 for Screen Test Jr., and eight films by high school filmmakers plus at least one advancing local film will be shown the evening of April 13 for the International High School Competition. Films from throughout the US as well as Croatia, China, and Australia were submitted this year.

The 9th annual Senior Follies will hold auditions on Thursday, March 28. The performance, originally scheduled for April 14, has been moved to April 7 to allow for a rescheduled performance of the Peking Acrobats. Auditions are open to anyone aged 62 and up.

3. 2023-24 Programming

Mr. Pileckis reported attendance numbers for recent performances:

History that Doesn’t Suck, Mar. 1 – 440 tickets sold

Zakir Hussain, Mar. 15 – 443 tickets

Thursday Night Laughs, Mar. 14 – 180 tickets

Box office sales for upcoming shows include:

Peking Acrobats, April 14 – 365 tickets

Suzanne Vega, April 18 – 398 tickets

For the Suzanne Vega performance in April, Mr. Nejman advised that Space in Evanston be contacted to help promote the artist’s show at the Prairie Center, since Space’s Vega performances are sold out.

DEFERRALS: No report.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Discussion was held on conducting an end-of-the-season survey to learn of new theatre-going trends that might influence future programming decisions.

Ms. Cain advised that the art of storytelling is becoming popular again, which led to a discussion on the possibility of hosting more spoken word performances at the Prairie Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nejman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm. Marily Pande seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Pileckis
Assistant Director, Cultural Services