

MINUTES

Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2024

Page Memorial Building

Lake Odessa, Michigan

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Hermes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
Present: Melanie Baker, Karen Banks, Meg Hermes, Carrie Johnson, Nancy Mattson, Aurora Rice
Absent: Ty Nurenberg
Visitors: None
Staff: None
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Banks, support by Hermes, to approve agenda with addition of Thank You display ad. All ayes; motion carried, with Baker absent.
3. **Public Comment:** None.

Baker arrived at 7:06 p.m.

4. **Minutes:** Motion by Johnson, support by Hermes, to approve minutes of July 8, 2024 regular meeting and July 25, 2024 special meeting. All ayes; motion carried.
5. **Finance:**
 - a. **Revenue/Expense report:** Report was reviewed.
 - b. **Accounts payable:** Motion by Johnson, support by Mattson, to approve the following invoices:

Menard's	Supplies (cup hooks, bungee cords, cable ties, broom, pop-up canopy, marking paint)	211.42
Lake Odessa Ace Hardware	rubber mallet	11.99
Carl's Supermarket, Inc.	(4) 20-lb. bags ice	20.31
River City Reproductions	Sign printing	262.00
Meyers' Bakery	10 doz donut holes, 12 doz cake donuts	246.00
Karen Banks	(2) 100-pk. cooling towels, 24 lanyards for ID badges	161.18
Karen Banks	Photocopies (at Staples): volunteer handbooks, volunteer waiver forms	84.20
Amazon Business	Art supplies for Kids' Zone	<u>87.59</u>
	TOTAL:	<u>1,084.69</u>

All ayes; motion carried.

6. 2024 Art in the Park Recap:

- a. Artist referral rebates: Tabled until September meeting.
- b. 2025 Artist applications: As of 8/9/24, 27 applications have been received, 36 booth spaces purchased for a total of \$1,650 booth fee revenue.
- c. Visitor comment cards: Feedback was reviewed. Door prizes were drawn; winners of \$25 Buddy's on the Beach gift cards were Jim Marquess, Roger Geiger, Janet Thomas and Judy Wells.
- d. Artist feedback: Comment cards received through 8/9/24 were reviewed.
- e. Food vendors:
 - 1) Banks reported that she spoke with Tim Feuerstein (roasted nuts). He has asked that he be allowed to sell fresh squeezed lemonade in 2025. He also stated he prefers not to be located with food vendors selling entrees, as he feels that has a negative impact on his sales. There was no objection from board members in allowing him to sell lemonade, even though Lesa's Elephant Ears will also sell lemonade.
 - 2) Vendors returning in 2025: Mattson reported that Kool Breeze, Grub-A-Dub, Lesa's Elephant Ears and kettle corn vendor want to return in 2025.
 - 3) Vendors not returning or who will not be invited back in 2025:
 - Mattson reported that Sugar Buzz Bakery reported she did not make a profit (perhaps she spent too much on packaging), and she left the event early. She will not be invited back in 2025.
 - Good Sense Coffee did not make enough profit.
 - Maria's Tacos: Mattson reported that since March 2024 she had emailed James Espinoza 12 times and despite his promises to pay his booth fee, payment was not received until after close of this year's show. Also, they left before end of show. She does not want to invite him back next year.
- f. Kids' Zone: Rice reported concerns with Josh Dunigan (Drums for All!). She stated that if he returns, there should be an hour between the kids crafts and the beginning of his performance. Also, the noise from his drumming interfered with music on stage. Discussion followed. Possible solution would be for him to perform a set from the stage. Rice stated Dunigan was difficult to deal with and would prefer that he not be invited back.
- g. Volunteers and Sponsors: Discussion was held whether to purchase a display ad to thank sponsors and volunteers. Consensus was that mailed letters would be sufficient.

h. Complaints and suggestions for 2025: The following items were discussed based upon artist feedback received to date, visitor comments, and comments from board members and volunteers:

- Possible art class at event, held in a separate area. Should there be an entry fee or tickets sold in advance? If so, could Kids' Zone be moved to a different location?
- Complaint re: dogs peeing on tents and merchandise. What are possible solutions?
- Visitor Comment received re: local area string quartet. Are we interested in auditioning them for 2025?
- Artist Check-in, Load-In and Load-Out:
 - Consensus was that assigning artists to three separate check-in/load-in time slots helped eliminate congestion and made process more efficient. Should we change to one-hour time slots in 2025?
 - We did not have enough volunteers to assist with load-out. Mattson reported that she is noticing that artists have begun to have a sense of entitlement and have become demanding. Consideration needs to be given to perhaps hiring event staff and charging artists an additional fee for load-in/load-out assistance.
- Golf carts: Arts Commission needs to have instructions for cart maintenance in event a cart malfunctions, and we should have an emergency contact at US Cart in event of a cart failure.
- Advertising: Discussion was held re: lack of banner in town to advertise the event. Banks discussed the issue with sign regulations and free speech. Instagram and Snapchart should be considered as vehicles for event promotion.
- First Aid: Concerns were raised about Fire Department at Art in the Park. Discussion was held re: possibly hiring DK Security or Life EMS.
- Tool Crib (U-Haul trailer): Banks, Hermes and Mattson stated that the trailer should not be loaded at end of event until it is hooked up to a tow vehicle.

7. **Mural Project**: Banks reported that she has discussed the project with the DDA.
8. **Michigan Arts & Culture Council Grants**: Banks reported that the final report for the 2024 grant must be submitted by the end of October 2024. She has applied for a \$20,000 grant for 2025, and notification of the grant award should be received in September.
9. **Adjournment**: Without objection, meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Banks, Secretary/Treasurer