



Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

10:03 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve: Heather Pursley

Second: Jocelyn Campbell

ATTENDEES

In-person: Amanda Zehr, Ryan Searl, Tami Koppen, Annette Barr, Jocelyn Campbell, Heather Pursley, Alaina Iverson

Not Present: Susan Burton

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cassi Skoflanc, President of the Ottawa Downtown Association, presented a proposal to create a community mosaic mural. The mural would consist of individual tiles that community members would paint to create a larger mosaic, designed by a local artist. The tiles and color schemes would be provided at community events to ensure a cohesive design. The committee decided that costs and location would need to be identified before a vote could be held.

Justine Larabee, Area Director of Sales for Janko Hospitality, presented her mental health awareness project. The project is aimed at reducing self-harm on the Columbus Street Bridge and would entail a sculpture or piece of artwork that reminds people of their value and “micro pantries” located at either side of the bridge to be filled with resources for those in a mental health crisis. There was a discussion about the physical location of the boxes, as well as the timing of the upcoming bridge construction. The committee is generally in favor of the project and is seeking more information on the role it can play in bringing it to fruition.

AGENDA

Marble Sculptures

The committee discussed locations for the marble sculptures on the Reddick Public Library’s green space, the Scouting Museum, and the Sculpture Walk. The committee decided on Natalie’s at the library because of it’s tie-in to the fish tank, Ruth George’s at the Scouting and Heritage Museum, and Clara Brubaker’s on the Canal Street Sculpture Walk.

The committee determined the timing for the May 1 unveiling of the sculptures at each of the locations.

Action Items

Ryan Searl will create a press release about the project.

Heather Pursley will create a Facebook Event announcing the unveiling.

Amanda Zehr will contact the scouting museum about hosting a small reception after the last unveiling. Will also look into plaques identifying the artist and title of the sculptures.

Morel Hunt Murals

Two of the murals have been returned, and the deadline for the rest is April 11. The locations for all of the murals have been identified.

The committee will unveil the project during the Morel Fest on May 3, starting at 9 am. Amanda Zehr and Heather Pursley have volunteered to work the booth from 9 am-Noon. Heather Pursley presented the sticker design that will be handed out to people who find all of the morels. Stickers will be available at the Visitor's Center after the event.

Action Items

Amanda Zehr and Heather Pursley will complete the design of the Morel Murals brochure and map to be ready for the event on May 3.

En Plein Air Festival

The festival will be held Sept. 12-14. Annette Barr confirmed that Aussem Tours has agreed to host tours on that Friday evening. The committee is still waiting on a catering quote from the Ottawa Bakery. The committee discussed a marketing plan to increase the reach outside of the Illinois Valley area, and it was suggested that we try to work with the Visitor's Center. The committee decided to do a no-commitment room block through the Fairfield Inn in Ottawa.

Action Items

- **Amanda Zehr** will reach out to restaurants to see if they would be interested in offering an art-inspired special during the festival weekend.
 - **Heather Pursley** will confirm the room block with Justine Larabee.
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Poet Laureate

Ryan Searl presented details about the Poet Laureate program, including suggested requirements, criteria for review, and the Poet's engagement during their tenure. The committee agreed to the timeline for a call for applications starting mid-May, with a Poet Laureate expected to be announced mid-July.

Meeting Adjournment

11:21 AM

Motion to approve: Annette Bar

Seconded: Ryan Searl