

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

1:00-3:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting Location:

Executive Conference Room
State Historical Building
600 E Locust St
Des Moines, IA 50319

Virtual Attendance Information:

Video Conference Information
Join online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89134322167>
Or join via telephone: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 891 3432 2167

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
 - A. Welcome
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Review Meeting Agenda

- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. March 8, 2023

- III. Report from Chair**
 - A. Next Board Meeting - Thursday, September 28, 2023

- IV. Report from Department Director**
 - A. Department Updates
 - B. Welcome new board members

- V. Report from Division Administrator**
 - A. IAC Program Updates

- VI. Program Updates**
 - A. IGP Annual Meeting Recap
 - B. Funding agreements update
 - C. Funding round timeline and panelists

- VII. Staff Presentation - Site Visits**

- VIII. Board Discussion**
 - A. Designation recommendations

- IX. Public Comment**

A public comment period will be held at 2:45 p.m. Advance notice to Board Administrator Sarah Florian (sarah.florian@iowa.gov or 515-281-5773) is encouraged, but all public comments will be heard.

- X. Adjournment**

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board Meeting

March 8, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present via Zoom: Aaron Burnett, Barbara Determan, Alexis Fleener, Duane Hagerty, Mark Jackson, Danna Kehm, Tammy McCoy, Jacque Rahe, Angel Wallace

Board Members Absent: Andrew Denkinger, Darryl High, Joe Hrdlicka

Guests Present: None.

Public Present: None.

Staff Present: DCA Director Chris Kramer, Administrator David Schmitz, Arts in Community Development Program Manager Jon Berg, and Board Administrator Sarah Florian.

Call to Order

Determan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Welcome

Determan welcomed board members to the meeting.

Roll Call

Florian called the roll and deemed a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Jackson moved to approve the December 2, 2022 Minutes. Wallace seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from Chair

Review Board Term Expirations

Determan and Kramer reviewed board terms expiring on April 30, 2023, which included board members in attendance Fleener and Jackson. Determan also shared reappointments at this time. Kramer shared information about the new board appointments, Drew Denkinger and Sara Kurovski, and also noted information about the one remaining board opening. Kramer also shared gratitude to the board members, Fleener and Jackson, whose terms are expiring.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Determan reported the next board meeting will take place on May 3, 2023 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

DCA Director's Report

Kramer recapped how the government realignment bill impacts the Department of Cultural Affairs and the current status of the process. Kramer shared that the DCA presented to the House Economic Development Budget Subcommittee earlier this week and recapped the focus of that presentation. Additionally, Kramer shared that we recently hosted a reception for the opening of the renovated Iowa History Research Center. Kramer also provided a status update on the renovations of the State Historical Building, noting that the building is still being used by the public during this time. Kramer noted that March 1 marked the start of Iowa History Month. Kramer shared that 10 awardees received the 2023 Governor's Arts Awards at a ceremony on March 1, along with additional special recognitions. Kramer shared additional context about the awards and the focus of that event. Awardees were recognized in Lt. Governor Gregg's office as well

that day. Kramer shared upcoming summits and professional development including the Iowa Great Places Annual Meeting in Marshalltown and National History Day. Kramer shared additional details about the Preserve Iowa Summit and Fine Arts Education Summit in June 2023. Kramer asked for questions; none were asked.

Administrator Updates

Schmitz highlighted the Cultural Leadership Cohort and the most recent meeting in late February; the response to this program has been positive. Schmitz shared more information about the Poetry Out Loud program; the Iowa Arts Council hosted the state contest this past weekend and the winner from Waterloo West High School will be going to the national contest in Washington D.C. Schmitz shared from the department's film and media area an update on Greenlight Grants and an upcoming co-presented screening at FilmScene.

Schmitz noted that we have FY24 grants open now, which have a May 1 deadline. Schmitz encouraged those in attendance to share grants information with their networks and noted that there will be grant workshops coming up. Schmitz encouraged those with questions to reach out to staff.

Program Updates

Berg shared information about the Iowa Great Places Annual Meeting on April 10 in Marshalltown. In conjunction with this event, the Iowa Arts Council will host the first Meet the Artist event with this year's Iowa Artist Fellows. Berg will send more information, including registration information, to the Board following the meeting.

Berg noted that we have ten currently active Iowa Great Places projects. Berg is working to get status updates on all projects, including reimbursements, forecasting and any changes to any projects. The City of Grinnell has noted they will be returning funds for their project as they have run into significant challenges.

Berg noted that the focus of the May 3, 2023 board meeting will be reviewing new designations and reviewing feedback from site visits consisting of IGP board members and DCA staff. Iowa Great Places board members will review and score applications before that meeting. The board will then vote to designate at the May 3 meeting. Berg shared the importance of board involvement in this process.

Going into the fall, Berg shared information about the timeline for the FY24 grant funding. This process includes a pre-application, pre-application feedback from the board, full applications, staff and board site visits, and funding decisions and announcements. The timeline for this occurs from September through December 2023.

Board Discussion

Determan shared the process for the redesignation conversation this afternoon.

Berg shared the following table of information and provided additional context at the start of board discussion.

Iowa Great Place	Applicant	City	County
Burlington	City of Burlington	Burlington	Des Moines
Coon Rapids	City of Coon Rapids	Coon Rapids	Carroll
Decorah	City of Decorah, Decorah Parks and Recreation	Decorah	Winneshiek
Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Dubuque	Dubuque
Forest City	City of Forest City	Forest City	Winnebago
Guttenberg	City of Guttenberg	Guttenberg	Clayton
Iowa City /Coralville/North Liberty	Think Iowa City	Coralville	Johnson
Marion	City of Marion	Marion	Linn
Van Buren County	Van Buren County Conservation	Keosauqua	Van Buren

Burlington

Hagerty shared that Burlington had a strong application focused on Iowa Great Places priorities; clear vision plan.

Hagerty thought there could be more engagement from community partners and their media could have been stronger in demonstrating their visioning process. Local support was noted from Hagerty. Rahe agreed with Hagerty's assessment, but wanted to see a little bit more in the qualitative assessment of the project and how they will evaluate success moving forward. Jackson shared that Burlington doesn't have the financial resources as a larger city, but they still accomplish a lot. Berg shared that he traveled to Burlington with Schmitz and provided an update from the staff perspective. Schmitz echoed that the site visit went well. Panel average score was 22.

Coon Rapids

Berg shared that the panel average score was 23. Jackson shared that this application meets all the criteria and this is a model small community going through this process. Rahe enjoyed the diversity in their projects and initiative; their efforts are admirable. Hagerty echoed the sentiments of the strong application. Berg shared an update from his interactions with this application; he appreciates the organization and communication from the applicant. Schmitz shared that Coon Rapids has been involved in the program since 2005 and was one of the original three Iowa Great Places; Schmitz is excited by the growth of this application and their vision.

Decorah

Berg noted this would be this applicant's third designation. Rahe thought this was a strong application with a strong profile with many partnerships. Rahe shared that their commissions and boards have active and strong plans. Rahe provided an overview of the application content. Rahe was disappointed in the local support materials as they could have been more robust. Jackson had no additional notes. Hagerty experienced connectivity issues during this conversation. Berg provided an update on his interactions with the applicant and is impressed with the team and their vision. This application had a 21.6 panel average score.

Dubuque

Berg shared that Wallace reviewed this application due to conflicts of interest. Jackson shared that Dubuque has really grown in the last twenty years and is a premiere city in Iowa. Wallace shared it was a really great application; was impressed with their online presence and community engagement. Wallace agreed that it is one of the premiere applications Wallace has reviewed. Berg shared that this applicant's level of collaboration is refreshing to see and other cities are looking to Dubuque as a model in this work. Schmitz echoed the community excels in this work and that the panel recognized this. Panel score average was 24 for this application.

Forest City

Berg shared that Forest City was designated in 2016. Hagerty shared that they align with program priorities, have good plans for the future and submitted a good application overall. Rahe noted that the applicant put a significant amount of focus on one position/person; he would have liked to see more collaboration and partnership; but overall it's a good application. Berg shared that the local collaboration is a model for this type of work and is excited to see what this applicant will do in the future. The panel average score was 20.

Marion

Rahe noted strong follow through and provided a summary of the application; overwhelming community engagement in the visioning process; the local support materials really were the only thing lacking for Rahe; great application overall. Hagerty echoed Rahe's comments; overall great application. Jackson noted nothing to add. Marion had an average panel score of 22.3. Berg shared his experience with the Iowa Arts Council board meeting last fall and it was impressive. Schmitz and Kramer echoed this sentiment.

Van Buren County

Hagerty scored this application highly and thought the application was well done. Rahe noted that this applicant did a nice job of bringing everyone together and they have a nice plan that utilizes the full ten years. Hagerty also shared they have a great plan for the future; nothing negative to say about this application. This applicant had a 22.3 average panel score. Berg shared additional insight from his site visit and interaction with the applicant; exciting to see this application and plans for the future. Schmitz shared additional insight about a project in this community.

Guttenberg

Jackson shared that this application needs additional discussion. The score is much lower than the others and was a weak application overall. Jackson noted they need a stronger vision process, bring partners on board and go through strategic planning. Hagerty agreed with Jackson's comments; the applicant has so much they can work with, but the application didn't address what is needed for the Iowa Great Places program. Rahe agreed. Kramer shared that we meet communities at various places in their process and part of our role is to help them identify what is next at certain points;

there is active involvement in this work, so we can determine new ways to collaborate with this community. Kramer recommends additional conversation and defining next steps. The panel average score for this application is 11.6. Berg noted that we are now asking communities to bring forward a ten year plan and the panel was not seeing this.

Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty

Berg noted that they were designated in 2009 and 2018. Rahe shared an overview of the application; discussion around the applicant and the plan didn't necessarily align; did a great job identifying progress they've made, but thought the projects identified were weak and the vision plan wasn't specific and/or related to the projects noted. Rahe shared that it was challenging to determine if this was an application for the University of Iowa campus or the communities. Hagerty agreed with Rahe's comments; the application materials weren't focused on the Iowa Great Places priorities and how this program is connected. Jackson agreed with comments already stated. Berg shared additional information from his conversation with the applicant. Kramer shared that we need additional clarification and definition about the location/place; a site visit may be needed for this applicant. 18.6 average panel score.

Determan thanked the panel and staff for their work on this.

Motion #1: Burnett made a motion to redesignate Dubuque as an Iowa Great Place. Wallace seconded the motion. Hagerty and Rahe abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #2: Jackson made a motion to redesignate Coon Rapids as an Iowa Great Place. Rahe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #3: Hagerty made a motion to redesignate Van Buren County as an Iowa Great Place. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #4: Rahe made a motion to redesignate Decorah as an Iowa Great Place. Burnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #5: Hagerty made a motion to redesignate Marion as an Iowa Great Place. Rahe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #6: Jackson made a motion to redesignate Burlington as an Iowa Great Place. Wallace seconded the motion. McCoy abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #7: Rahe made a motion to redesignate Forest City as an Iowa Great Place. Hagerty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #8: McCoy motioned to have a discussion with Guttenberg for additional consideration. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #9: McCoy motioned to have a discussion with Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty for additional consideration. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Berg shared next steps for re-designations applicant notifications as well as new designation panel and site visits.

Public Comment

Determan asked for public comment. No members of the public were present to comment.

Burnett asked about legislation that would impact the Iowa Great Places program. Kramer shared that the program is included in the budget within economic development and RIFF. Kramer encouraged continued conversation with legislators. Determan shared experience communicating with legislators.

Berg thanked the board for their work. Determan echoed the gratitude for Jackson and Fleener's service to the board.

Adjournment

Determan adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.