

RIVER ARTS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS
MAY 15, 2017

Chairperson Mike Freel called the meeting to order at 5:00P.M. Notice of the meeting was provided to the *Dells Events*, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

1. Present: Ald. Mike Freel, Jenifer Dobbs, Bonnie Hayskar, Mike Showalter and Tom Lines

Excused: Danielle Rodwell

Others: Mayor Brian Landers, Ald. Jesse DeFosse, Ald. Brian Holzem, City Clerk/Coordinator Nancy Holzem, City Treasurer Karen Terry, City Planner/Zoning Administrator Chris Tollaksen, City Attorney Joseph Hasler, Kevin Ricks, Corena Ricks, Kelli Trumble, Debbie Kinder, and Ed Legge from the *Dells Events*.
2. Motion by Jenifer Dobbs seconded by Mike Showalter to approve the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Steampunk Branding Presentation. Kevin and Corena Ricks did a presentation on “steampunk”; defining steampunk as a style of design that combines historic elements with anachronistic technological features inspired science fiction. They feel the downtown should be an attraction that will pull people out of the water parks. They talked about how the river is unique and inspiring so there should be art work downtown that is just as unique and inspiring. Corena stated that currently there are conflicting themes downtown so there should be something that connects them. They talked about incorporating the steampunk concept into the downtown and provided examples. One being them being from Dr. Evermor’s “forevertron” and the rest of his art collection current by Delaney’s on Hwy 12 between Baraboo and Sauk City. They also provided examples of a river mosaic that would flow through downtown as well as examples of murals on exterior walls that tell a story. Committee members questioned why they wanted the sculptures on Hwy 12 moved, the cost to move them, where all the pieces of the collection would go, and the cost to maintain them. Safety concerns were also discussed since most of the pieces have sharp edges on them and rust. Jenifer stated that it could create flow on Broadway. Most committee members like the illustration of the canoes on the bridge and the art work proposed for the walls. Mayor Landers encouraged committee members to take a drive to that area to look at the collection. The biggest hurdles would be where would it go and would people allow it on their property. From the audience Debbie Kinder stated that it could look like a bunch of junk if not done right. Tom expressed his concerns and frustrations regarding the expectation of the committee to do amazing things with little or no money. He stated that the Dells is a billion dollar industry and questioned why the money was hiding. Chairperson Freel acknowledged the limited resources of the committee so he felt the committee should focus on the entertainment and a mural. He added that no one could afford to do a project of this size so the city, the BID and the VCB would all need to be involved. City Planner Chris Tollaksen stated that he would be looking for a motion to approve moving forward with incorporating the steampunk idea into the River Arts District, or to reject it. Bonnie

stated that there needs to be community involvement in this before making such a commitment. Debbie Kinder pointed out the Duchess Plaza that gets nothing but complaints since there was no community buy in on it. Mayor Landers referenced the Roger Brooks' study that should a need for an outside entertainment/plaza area. He added that those that complain about it do nothing for the city. He added that people are using the plaza area and they are enjoying it. Ald. DeFosse agreed stating that the plaza just opened last summer and people were impatient with it. He stated that this year is has a powerful line up of entertainment.

It was moved by Jenifer seconded by Tom to move forward with incorporating steampunk, as presentation by Kevin and Corena Ricks, into the River Arts District. Motion carried 3-2 with Freel, Dobbs and Lines voting yes, Hayskar and Showalter voting no.

4. Summer Entertainment. Jenifer presented the 2017 summer entertainment calendar. The committee thanked her for the great job she did on the entertainment schedule this year.
5. Duchess Plaza Signage. Signage is currently being worked on. It will be 4' x 4' signs with the entertainment schedule on it.
6. Downtown Art/Murals. Bonnie asked what direction she should be taking on the art work downtown. Chairperson Freel stated that we needed to start with something instead of planning everything. He stated that he thought she should move forward with the mural idea that Kevin and Corena presented for the concrete half wall in front of Showboat. Bonnie questioned the need for public input and RFPs. From the audience Debbie Kinder stated that no public input was sought for the Duchess Plaza and now there is nothing but complaints about it. She said there was no community buy in and decisions were made quickly. Mayor Landers disagreed stating that it was discussed at numerous public meetings. He added that when surveys were done, the need for a plaza with entertainment was identified, noting that people are using it and enjoying it. Ald. DeFosse agreed stating that it will be a great entertainment venue now that it has the entertainment it needs. Chairperson Freel asked that Bonnie focus on the proposed mural in front of Showboat as the first project. He added that the Rick's proposed mural for the side of Wally's building facing the plaza would be a great second project.
7. No date was set for the next meeting.
8. Motion by Jenifer seconded by Mike Showalter to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Nancy R. Holzem
City Clerk/Coordinator