

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for July 18, 2017**

Attendance: Kevin Westenskow, Deborah Daines, Carolyn Milne, Becca Spjute, Clark Bullen
Mary Ann Kirk and Lori Edmunds (staff)
Excused: Lori Steadman, Wendy Richhart

1. Minutes for June 20, 2017 were approved.
2. Amphitheater is still in progress but Music Man is rehearsing there starting today while construction continues. The main things left are the outer shell of the roof, electrical, landscaping, and cabinetry. The schools were able to accommodate all shows up to date but we did have some problems with opening the facility on the last night of Ballet Under the Stars. Board members agreed we should not have a formal grand opening until the facility looks finished from the exterior. It would include a ribbon cutting and thanking the donors just prior to one of the shows. This could be the closing night of Music Man or the opening show of Carousel. Mary Ann asked if we should allow people to tour the facility. Board members didn't think that would work during a show but we could do it at another time during the day when a show isn't booked in the facility.
3. Public Art options were reviewed. Mary Ann has shared the options with other groups. The design was revised because the space was much smaller than originally thought. Kevin wanted to keep the design and just make the design smaller or cut the sidewalk to fit the art piece. Mary Ann said we need to keep the walkway dimension. The Parks group liked the simpler revised version without the vertical element. Feedback from the arts group and other administrative staff liked the version with the vertical diamond shape that has an "artsy" element that provided a stronger visual statement that this is the amphitheater. Mary Ann is waiting for a cost estimate of both versions. Mary Ann thought the art was attached to a concrete base but she realized it was a border box with proposed white rocks inside. Board members did not like the "planter box" around the art. It did not reflect that in the 3 D model. Mary Ann will ask if the sculpture can attach to the ground. We still need to figure out where the plaque with names will go. This may need to be installed next season.
4. Past activities include Fiddler on the Roof (2107 attendance), Symphony (303) and Concert Band (225). Mary Ann estimated the ballet had about 200-300 attendance each night which may be smaller than the past. Fiddler had a 25% increase in attendance from last year and symphony and band were about average so the school facility did not seem to impact these performances. Carolyn asked if the ballet does the same show every year. Mary Ann said the show is different from summer to summer but the winter and summer show includes the same fairytale ballet. Mary Ann thinks she will not include the winter fairytale ballet in the winter season since it is the same. The camps continue to have full registrations but many do not show up. We will charge a small fee for the art camp next year. Daytime concert attendance have ranged from 50 – 300 depending on the type of show.
5. Volunteer assignments were completed for Music Man. Mary Ann will send out an email for Carousel. Gate assignments will be a little different because one gate usher needs to stay at the gate until intermission (45 minutes) since staff will be in the ticket booth. If both Lori and Mary Ann are there, they can make it work but we may need to give them a ticket to another night's performance. Mary Ann is inviting all other groups for Music Man to see how the gate works.

6. Mary Ann reported we are up to nearly 1000 facebook friends. Jennifer posts about 35 posts each month. Becca said the posts are showing up on her feed at the top. Mary Ann was worried there are too many posts and too early, but board members said two weeks is good to give people a heads up on what is happening in the coming weeks.
7. The Arts Council has asked to have the June slot for our first musical each year instead of July. Some board members asked why they get a performance slot each year. Mary Ann explained the arts council is a local Murray art agency just like the symphony and the band. They were the originators of musicals in Murray and had a large role in the original amphitheater construction so it is important to include them on an ongoing basis. Staff liked the idea of them taking the June slot because we are so busy with Murray Fun Days. Clark was worried about potential cast members for two back to back shows. They wouldn't be able to audition for both. Mary Ann said the public doesn't care who is producing. She advertises all three productions so people can still do June and August if they want. The time slots can be revised in the future if needed.
8. Kevin asked about the Murray Theater. Mary Ann explained the city has received a grant to do a feasibility study and schematic design so we know how much money it would take to rehab. We could then approach the state for funding. Kevin thought this was an asset that needs to be utilized for year round programming. Clark was concerned about parking. He didn't think the proposed adjacent development would provide sufficient parking. Mary Ann said there is sufficient parking currently behind city hall but that would need to be addressed.