

**Present**

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (chair)  
Franca Biales (v. chair) (arr 7:33pm)  
Julia Faraci (sec.)  
Lee Godburn  
Charlotte McCoid  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Sara MacSorley  
Barbara Arafeh (arr 7:03pm)  
Robert Santangelo (arr 7:06pm)  
Jay Hoggard (arr 7:06pm, left 9:06pm)

**Also Present**

Stephan Allison  
Alexandra Porczak (student rep) (arr 7:24pm)

**Absent**

Sebastian Giuliano  
Cassandra Day  
Fran Ganguli  
Susan Allison (Poet Laureate)  
Arthur Moore (student rep)

**Call to Order**

Jenny Hawkins Lecce, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Community/Senior Center, 61 Durant Terrace.

**Public Session**

No members of the public present.

**Minutes**

a) December 16, 2015

Signature was missing from initial submittal of minutes, and was added in a revision. Motion to approve Revised Minutes by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Commissioner McCoid. Carried unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner MacSorley. Carried unanimously.

**Remarks from the Chair:**

Pamela Tatge is leaving her post of Director of CFA at Wesleyan to head Jacob's Pillow. Her contributions to Middletown were acknowledged with thanks. She has been a dedicated and hardworking partner to the Middletown arts community, and she will be missed.

**Old Business**

a) **Budget Report**

Report was distributed to commissioners electronically. No discussion.  
2016-2017 Budget was discussed under New Business.

b) **Program Update**

i) Arts Stakeholders Group – nothing to report.

ii) Kids Arts – update on full-day progress

Registration packets will be released in mid-February. Registration will start on March 1 and will be on a first come, first served basis.

iii) Feet to the Fire (F2F) – Next meeting will be in March.

iv) Poet Laureate – Susan Allison was invited by John Kilian to read at the Middletown Straw Poll on January 31 at Camp's on Main Street.

v) Municipal Bldg. update – Further discussions with Recycling Coordinator Kim O'Rourke. Wesleyan will fabricate recycling containers – awaiting cost. Ongoing.

c) **Other** – none.

**Committee Reports**

- a) **Executive Committee** – none.
- b) **Public Art Committee** – Committee Meeting was held on January 11.
  - i) City Owned Art – Art is ready to be moved; however the storage facility has been found to be unsatisfactory because it is insufficiently temperature-controlled. An alternate storage facility therefore must be found. Ongoing.
  - ii) Signage – Stephan Allison presented seal press labels in a Times New Roman font which the committee found readable and attractive. Possible partnerships for the seal press label machine are being investigated. Ongoing.
  - iii) First Public Arts curated show – Committee Chair Faraci reviewed and made preliminary selection of works following the show’s Landscape theme. Ongoing.
  - iv) Restoration of the Risley work – ongoing.
  - v) Other – Sculpture in City Hall was damaged. Fostering awareness of the value of City art was stressed, as was the importance of protecting it with signage and stanchions.
  - vi) Goals – Commission Chair Lecce enumerated Goals of the Public Art Committee, with recommended timelines and priorities, which she will distribute to all Arts Commissioners as guidelines. She noted that the Public Art Committee has many tasks, and urged Commissioners who were not on a busy committee to assist. Committee Co-Chair Faraci will call a meeting for next week.
- c) **Nominating Committee**
  - i) Phone calls to follow up on absent commissioners – Commissioner Arafeh expects to report in February. Ongoing.
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee**
  - i) Arts Advocacy Awards – The Committee is seeking to make a decision on the award in time for March, Arts Advocacy Month. Secretary Faraci will forward the names of the individuals and /or groups discussed at December’s meeting. Write-ups would be helpful to aid the Commission with consideration of nominees. Commissioners to vote on award recipients at February meeting.
- e) **Music Committee**
  - i) Committee will meet before next Commission meeting. Ongoing.

**New Business**

- a) **2016-2017 Budget** – Discussion of funding availability for Middletown’s cornerstone arts organizations. Performances at The Buttonwood Tree, Oddfellows Playhouse and Art Farm attract many visitors to the City. Middletown arts organizations are not eligible for funding available to Hartford and Shoreline area arts organizations.
- b) **Grants / Grants Panels** – Six applications for Category 1 and seven for Category 2 and 3 grants were received. The panel for Category 2 & 3 grants was chosen and will meet with the applicants February 17. The entire Commission will review the Category 1 grants immediately before the next Commission meeting on February 24.
- c) **CFA Leadership** – Pamela Tatge has announced that she is leaving the CFA in April. Her replacement will be announced soon.
- d) **Other** – none.

**Miscellaneous**

- a) **Grant Reports** – Five received, and will be distributed. Ongoing.
- b) **Announcements**
  - i) Commissioner Godburn’s Bread and Water restaurant will have a grand opening February 10.
  - ii) Robert Cummings, founder and director of the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society, was honored recently on the occasion of his retirement, at a dinner at the River House in Haddam.
  - iii) Commissioner Arafeh announced that this week, the Middletown Patch featured a performance of the Middletuners.
  - iv) Commissioner Arafeh announced the Singalong at the Senior Center has been going well and has attracted more voices.

- v) New Haven Symphony's December performance at the MHS Performing Arts Center was a success.
- vi) The Greater Middletown Concert Association will bring "The Best of Sinatra" to MHS Performing Arts Center on February 5.
- vii) Council Member Santangelo proposed a mural in the Council Chambers to honor war veterans.
- viii) A positive report on the City and its "Music on Hold" program was featured in the Hartford magazine section of the Hartford Courant online. This month the City's on hold service has been featuring Jay Hoggard's music.
- ix) Marc Pettersen posted a clever call on Facebook for artists for his Illuminated Windows Project.
- x) Stephan Allison was asked to forward the Poet Laureate report that Susan Allison sent to Mayor Drew, so that the Commissioners can keep abreast of her upcoming events.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:13pm.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 8:00pm, Room 208, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Faraci  
Secretary  
Middletown Commission on the Arts