



MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

## Middletown Commission on the Arts Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, April 27, 2016

### **Present**

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (chair)  
Franca Biales (v. chair)  
Julia Faraci (sec.)  
Cassandra Day  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Lee Godburn  
Charlotte McCoid

### **Also Present**

Stephan Allison (Arts Coordinator)

### **Absent**

Fran Ganguli  
Barbara Arafah  
Sebastian Giuliano  
Robert Santangelo  
Jay Hoggard  
Sara MacSorley  
Susan Allison  
Alexandra Porczak  
Arthur Moore (student rep)

### **Call to Order**

Jenny Hawkins Lecce, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in Multi-Purpose Room, Green Street Teaching & Learning Center, 51 Green St.

**Public Session** – no members of the public present.

### **Minutes**

March 23, 2016 - Motion to approve Minutes by Biales, seconded by Godburn, carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Faraci to approve agenda, seconded by Kirkpatrick, carried unanimously.

### **Remarks from the Chair:**

In view of the substantial cuts to the Arts portion of the City Budget, the Chair noted the Commission's continuing commitment to advocacy for the arts. With gratitude and joy that so many arts groups have been supported, and especially so many new groups whose works have had an impact on the community, she expressed the hope that the City will find more money to fund arts programs and events that contribute so much to the quality of life in Middletown.

### **Old Business –**

**Budget Report** – distributed to Commissioners electronically.

#### **Program Update**

- i) Arts Stakeholders Group – nothing to report
- ii) Kids Arts – registration is continuing
- iii) Feet to the Fire (F2F) – is on May 7 at Harbor Park
- iv) Poet Laureate – Susan Allison is presenting “Who in the What is Poetry?” at Russell Library on April 30.
- v) Municipal Bldg. update – continuing work on the recycling containers, modelled after those at the Wesleyan Science Center.
- vi) Other – none

### **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee**– Faraci attended FOIA training on March 24.

#### **Public Art Committee –**

Public Art Committee led by Lecce organized the City Art exhibit. Faraci expressed appreciation to Lecce for her leadership in planning and overseeing the project. Faraci will write a thank you letter to Kelly Robinson for his work hanging the artwork. She will also contact Dmitri D’Alessandro of Middletown

Framing and Marc Pettersen of MAC650 to ask that the exhibit be included in June's Art Walk.

Lecce was approached by William Russo who asked to switch out a Richard LaBella multimedia abstract now hanging in the Public Works office, in exchange for Samuel Green's watercolor *Church Steps –Guatemala* which is currently in storage in the Arts Office. Public Art Committee will discuss at their next meeting.

**Nominating Committee** – ongoing.

**Planning and Projects Committee**

The Arts Advocacy Awards reception was held at MAC650 on April 27<sup>th</sup> immediately before the Commission meeting. Mayor Drew presented the awards to the honorees: Arthur Meyers, recently retired from Russell Library, and Pamela Tatge, who recently left Wesleyan's CFA for Jacob's Pillow, and MAC650 Gallery. The award letters and proclamation will be posted at arts2go.org.

The Commission thanked Godburn for making the preparations for the reception.

**Music Sub-Committee** – continuing.

**New Business**

**2016-2017 budget** – Discussion of the severe cuts proposed to the Arts portion of the budget, and the effects on arts funding. There will be an opportunity to express concerns at the Public Hearing on the City Budget scheduled for April 28.

**Grants** – Biales moved to accept the revised recommendations of the Grants Panel. McCoid seconded, carried unanimously.

Connecticut Ballet	Supporting a free Summer Dance Caravan at Middlesex Community College.	\$ 2100
J & J Productions	Support for creation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual "Jack 'n' Jill Music Festival".	\$ 2100
Green Street Teaching and Learning Center	Supporting teaching artists' fees and class supplies for arts classes.	\$ 2000
Russell Library	Supporting Middletown International Film Festival (films and discussions)	\$ 1100
Central City Productions	Supporting "First Night Middletown" New Year's Eve celebration of the arts; Applicant should reapply in the fall.	\$ 0
Trinbago American Cultural Explorers (TACE)	Supporting a Trinidad Style Caribbean Carnival in Harbor Park	\$ 2500
North End Artists Cooperative	Supporting the MAC650 Music Series with live visual art June-October 2016	\$ 600

**Miscellaneous**

**Grant Reports** – ongoing; received from NHSO and Resonant Motion.

**Announcements** –

Jay Hoggard and his ensemble will be playing at CFA / Crowell on April 30.

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra will be presenting a "Bernstein and Haydn" program with the Greater Middletown Chorale at the Performing Arts Center at MHS on May 1.

Connecticut Ballet will be presenting "Cinderella" at the Bushnell on May 7.

**Adjournment**

Chair Lecce entertained a motion from Faraci to adjourn at 8:05pm; seconded by Day.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at 7:00pm, in Room 208, Municipal Building, 245 deKoven Drive, Middletown.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Faraci, Secretary