

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, November 19, 2014

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.chair)
Franca Biales (sec.)
Lee Godburn
Charlotte McCoid
Sebastian Giuliano
Julia Faraci
Sara MacSorley
Jackie Pawlak (Student rep)
Anthony Moran (Student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff
Trevon Freeman

Absent

Barbara Arafah
Robert Santangelo
Fran Ganguli
Joyce Kirkpatrick

Call to order

Chairwoman Day called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in Municipal Building, Room 208

Public Session

Member of the public, Trevon Freeman, working on assignment for journalism class at CCSU

Minutes

- a) October 22, 2014 - Motion to approve by Councilman Giuliano, seconded by Commissioner McCoid.
Discussion: none. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Commissioner McCoid. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair - Brought attention to two new ideas being discussed in the community. One is the proposal to create a performance arts center at First Church and the other is the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge.

Old Business:

- a) **Budget Report**- provided electronically to commissioners
b) **Program Update**
 - i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Discussion about the Special Art Stakeholders meeting on November 18, 2014 regarding the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge
 - ii. Summer Sounds – No report
 - iii. Kids Arts – Space usage update- Kids Arts summer program will continue to be housed at MacDonough School for the 2015 session.
- c) Semi –annual report to Mayor/Common Council- In addition to the monthly arts calendar, the MCA will report to the Mayor/common council at January or February meeting. Committee chairs will report on current work and future plans.
- d) Other- none

Committee Reports:

- a) **Endowment Research Committee** – ongoing- City attorney will attend next MCA meeting
- b) **Executive Committee**- no report
- c) **Nominating Committee**- Jay Hoggard has been appointed by the Mayor, requires confirmation at December Common Council meeting.
 - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee**-
 - i. Poet Laureate-Commissioner Godburn presented final draft of guidelines with regard to name, duties, terms, eligibility, and nominations. Panel of judges will be selected by MCA. Subcommittee will meet in January to move project forward.
 - ii. Arts Advocacy Award(s)- Nominations must be done by January. March is art advocacy month. The public is encouraged to submit nominations. A press release has been issued asking for nominations.
 - iii. Kids Arts expansion considerations- Commissioner Godburn is looking to expand program to full day for the summer of 2016. Will be looking to increase fees to help support the program while still keeping it affordable for Middletown residents.
- e) **Public Art Committee**
 - i. Public Art Policy for Acquisitions- Reviewing policies from other cities

New Business

- a) Approval of 2015 meeting schedule - Motion to approve by Councilman Giuliano, seconded by Commissioner McCoid. No discussion. Passed unanimously.
- b) Commissioner MacSorley reported on the meeting at First Church to create a performance arts center. Goals are to bring big names to the 900 seat venue and to support local arts organizations.

Miscellaneous

- a) Announcements
 - Richard Kamins will be honored by the Common Council for his service on the MCA on Dec. 1, 2014 at 7 pm. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
 - December 2 - WesWinds free concert at Crowell Concert Hall, 8 pm
 - A Christmas Carol will be performed at MHS, November 20-22, 7 pm. Saturday matinee at 2 pm
 - MHS VoAg program is taking orders for Christmas wreaths
 - December 5 - Green Street exhibit of art by members of the afterschool program, 5:30-7:30 pm
 - Greater Middletown Chorale will be performing Messiah with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Sunday, December 21 at 5 pm at the Performing Arts Center at MHS. There will a community conversation about Messiah on December 8th at 7 pm in the Hubbard Room at the Russell Library.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Giuliano at 8:25 pm.

The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, room B19 of the Municipal Building at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Franca Biales