

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, December 17, 2014

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (vice-chair) 7:05p
Franca Biales (sec.)
Lee Godburn
Charlotte McCoid
Sebastian Giuliano 7:13p
Julia Faraci 7:15p
Sara MacSorley
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Anthony Moran (Student rep)
Barbara Arafteh 7:03p

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff
Elaine Carroll
Brig Smith, City Attorney

Absent

Jackie Pawlak (Student rep)
Robert Santangelo
Fran Ganguli
Jay Hoggard

Call to order

Chairwoman Day called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Public Session – Elaine Carroll, Executive Director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra spoke about the NHSO's upcoming performance with GMC and about the NHSO's three year commitment to the Middletown area. She discussed how NHSO's partnerships can use concerts as a vehicle to raise funds. Also spoke about the relationship NHSO is building with the Middletown schools.

Minutes

a) November 19, 2014 - Motion to approve by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. Discussion: none. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to move public session to accommodate the arrival of Elaine Carroll, Executive Director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner MacSorley. Carried unanimously.

Motion to move the report of the Endowment Research Committee to accommodate the arrival of attorney Smith by Commissioner McCoid, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. Carried unanimously.

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

Remarks from the Chair - Happy Holidays

Old Business:

a) **Budget Report-** provided electronically to commissioners

b) Program Update

- i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Project proposal for the Bloomberg Initiative was prepared and submitted on time. The writing/edit talents of Jenny Lecce, Rani Arbo, and Michael Pestel were recognized by the Coordinator as being instrumental in the high quality of the final document.
- ii. Summer Sounds – Preparations are underway for the 2015 season.
- iii. Kids Arts – Space usage update- Kids Arts will be housed at Spencer School

- 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 February meeting. Committee chairs will report on past work, current work and future plans and present to Chair prior to next meeting. More discussion at January 28 MCA meeting.
- d) Other- none

Committee Reports:

- a) **Endowment Research Committee** – City Attorney Smith suggested that the Endowment could exist under Section 170 of the tax code. There was discussion about this versus using Section 501(c)(3). Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked about what other municipalities are doing with regard to endowments. There will be more discussion at future meetings.
- b) **Executive Committee**- no report
- c) **Nominating Committee**- Jay Hoggard has been appointed to MCA by the Mayor and his appointment was confirmed by the Common Council.
 - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee**-
 - i. Poet Laureate-Commissioner Godburn will call a meeting in January/February to decide on members and report back with a recommendation on creating a new committee or placing with the Public Arts Committee.
 - ii. Arts Advocacy Award(s)- Nominations must be in by January. March is art advocacy month. Another press release will be issued asking for suggestions from the public. Commissioners can email their nominations along with details of the merits of the nominee to Chair Day or Commissioner Godburn. Vote will take place at January meeting.
 - iii. Kids Arts expansion considerations-ongoing
- e) **Public Art Committee**
 - i. Public Art Policy for Acquisitions- ongoing

New Business-none

Miscellaneous

- a) Grant Report(s)- submitted to commissioners electronically
- b) Announcements
 - 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.
 - Green Street Art Center is changing its name to more accurately reflect all that it does. It will be called the Green Street Teaching and Learning Center - Green Street TLC. Compliments to Sara MacSorley.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Giuliano at 8:24 pm.

The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, room 208 of the Municipal Building at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Franca Biales