

Present

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (chair)
Franca Biales (v. chair)
Julia Faraci (sec.)
Charlotte McCoid
Barbara Arafah
Lee Godburn
Cassandra Day (left at 8:37)

Also Present Also Present

Stephan Allison
Stephan Allison, Staff

Absent Absent

Robert Santangelo
Sara MacSorley
Sebastian Giuliano
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Jay Hoggard
Fran Ganguli
Susan Allison (Poet Laureate)
Arthur Moore (student rep.)
Alexandra Porczak (student rep.)

Call to Order

Jenny Hawkins Lecce, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Community/Senior Center, 61 Durant Terrace.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Godburn proposed to revise Agenda to move Item 8(c)(ii) Veterans Memorial Monument at Washington Terrace Memorial Park to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the Disabled Americans Veterans' presentation. Motion to approve Amended Agenda by Vice Chair Biales, seconded by Secretary Faraci. Carried unanimously.

Public Session

John DiMauro of the Members of Chapter 7 of the Disabled American Veterans presented a proposal for a Memorial to disabled veterans of all wars to be installed at Washington Terrace Memorial Park. A black granite stone, inscribed with the names of all five branches of the service, will be the first monument to honor disabled vets in the state of Connecticut. The project is expected to cost around \$55,000 which the DAV will fund through donations and fundraising. The proposal has received the support of the State DAV, the Parks and Rec Department, and the Mayor, and the DAV asked for the support of the Arts Commission.

Minutes

- a) November 18, 2015.
Motion to approve by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Godburn. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair: None.

Old Business

a) **Budget Report**

Report was distributed to commissioners electronically. Commissioners commented favorably on the format, which showed activity for the entire year, so Stephan Allison will continue sending in this format. City Council will vote on the budget for the Arts Commission on May 12.

b) **Program Update**

- i) Arts Stakeholders Group – nothing to report.
- ii) Kids Arts – update on full-day progress
On December 7, City Council unanimously approved appropriation in the amount of \$23,723 for Kids Arts. Councilors remarked favorably on the Children's Circus program and its importance in the community. The Circus is using Spencer School for its program in Summer 2016. Applications for Teaching Assistants are due February 29.
- iii) Feet to the Fire (F2F) – Meeting was Thursday, Dec 3. No news.
- iv) Poet Laureate – ongoing.
- v) Municipal Bldg. update – Stephan Allison discussed various options to help make the building more tidy and

attractive with Recycling Coordinator Kim O'Rourke. Ongoing.

c) **Other** – none.

Committee Reports

a) **Executive Committee** – none.

b) **Public Art Committee** – Committee Meeting was held on December 1.

i) City Owned Art – Move will be coordinated with City Carpenter.

ii) Signage – Label format was finalized by Committee members. Final revision sent to Stephan Allison who presented various options offered by the printer. Seal press labels appear to be an attractive and economical option. Allison will obtain samples to present to the Commission.

iii) First Public Arts curated show – Theme will be Landscape; will include City-owned artwork. Ongoing.

iv) Other - Restoration of the Risley work – ongoing.

c) **Nominating Committee**

i) Phone calls to follow up on absent commissioners – ongoing.

d) **Planning and Projects Committee**

i) Arts Advocacy Awards – Several potential individual/group nominees were discussed. Write-ups would be helpful to aid Commission with consideration of nominees. Commissioners to vote on honorees at January meeting.

New Business

a) **Meeting Schedule for 2016 revisions** – Stephan Allison proposed that the Arts Commission meetings meet at the Community/Senior Center during months when there are meeting room conflicts in the Municipal Building. Motion to approve by Commissioner McCoid, seconded by Commissioner Day; carried unanimously. Commission will meet in the Community/Senior Center in the months of January, April, July, September, November, and December 2016.

b) **Grants / Grants Panels** - Reports were distributed to commissioners electronically. Applications for Category 1 grants are due January 15. Panels will be chosen at the January meeting.

c) **Proposals for public art**

i) Wesleyan University CFA, earth art at Harbor Park – Applicant was not present. Tabled.

ii) Veterans Memorial, monument at Washington Terrace Memorial Park – Motion to support of DAV proposal for Memorial to Disabled American Veterans by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Vice Chair Biales; carried unanimously.

d) **Other** – none.

Miscellaneous

a) **Grant Reports** – Three received. Ongoing

b) **Announcements**

i) Commissioner Godburn's Almshouse Annual Party was on December 12.

ii) Susan Allison's Reading at Russell Library on Sunday, December 6th – Because of her recent illness, many of the Poet Laureate's friends served as guest readers. Hubbard Room was full, and the Poet Laureate and her guest readers were warmly received.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting is Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 7:00pm, **Arts & Crafts Rm., Community Center, 61 Durant Terrace.**

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Faraci, Secretary