



MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Middletown Commission on the Arts Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Present

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (chair)
Franca Biales (v. chair)
Julia Faraci (sec.)
Lee Godburn
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Barbara Arafah
Charlotte McCoid
Sebastian Giuliano (arr 8:04pm)

Also Present

Stephan Allison

Absent

Sara MacSorley
Robert Santangelo
Cassandra Day
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 8:00pm in Room 208, Municipal Building.

Public Session

No public present; no public session.

Minutes

January 27, 2016 - Motion to approve Minutes by Godburn, seconded by Biales, carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Godburn to move Grants and Committee Reports to the beginning of the agenda, seconded by Kirkpatrick. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair: Nothing to report.

New Business: Grants –

The Panel for the Category 2 and 3 Grants met on February 17, and recommended awards for all applicants in the full amounts that they requested. Following a motion by Godburn, seconded by McCoid, the Commission then voted unanimously to award the Category 2 and 3 Grants:

Jennifer Shafer	Support for the Middletown Music Festival	\$1,500.00
Wesleyan University – CFA	Support for Feet to the Fire / Riverfront Encounter	\$3,000.00
Joe Fonda / Kaleidoscope Arts	Support for the 10th Annual CT Composers & Improvisers Festival	\$2,000.00
MAE – Even Start	To provide 8 music and movement sessions	\$600.00
Wesleyan University – Davison Art Center	Support for The Big Draw: Middletown	\$1,500.00
Total Category 2 & 3 Grants Awarded		\$8,600.00

Stephan Allison informed the Commissioners that the total amount available for Category 1 Grants is \$33,000. There were five Operating Grant application requests totaling \$65,000. The Category 1 applicants made their presentations before this Commission meeting during interviews from 5:00-7:30PM.

Category 1 grant applications were then discussed. Following a motion by Biales, seconded by McCoid, the Commission voted to award the Category 1 Grants, with Lecce, Biales, Faraci, Godburn and McCoid voting aye, and Arafah and Kirkpatrick abstaining.

ArtFarm	\$10,000.00
Greater Middletown Concert Assn	\$6,000.00
North End Arts Rising	\$8,000.00
Greater Middletown Chorale	\$4,000.00
Oddfellows Playhouse	\$5,000.00
Total Category 1 Grants Awarded	\$33,000.00

Committee Reports

Executive Committee– none.

Public Art Committee – Lecce reported on the Public Art Committee Meeting held on February 3. Work on the first Public Arts curated exhibit is ongoing.

The Community/Senior Center has been requesting art, so Stephan Allison will schedule deaccessioned art to be

moved there from City Hall. He will move the art that needs repair to his office. He will also order and place MCAAAA labeling.

Coordinator Allison was enthusiastic in bringing to the Commission's attention the name of a local artist interested in having one of his works purchased and placed into the City Collection. Brief discussion followed, Public Art Committee will add to their next meeting agenda.

Nominating Committee

Allison and Godburn will work on a resolution honoring Arts Commissioner Fran Ganguli for her long years of service to the Middletown Commission on the Arts.

Planning and Projects Committee

Motion brought by Godburn on whether Arts Advocacy Award should have three or four honorees. Godburn, Kirkpatrick, McCoid and Faraci voted aye for three awardees. Lecce, Giuliano, Biales, and Arafah voted aye for four awardees. As there was a tie, the motion was dropped.

Motion brought by Godburn to honor Arthur Meyers and Pamela Tatge as individuals and MAC650 as a group for the Arts Advocacy Award; seconded by Secretary Faraci. Motion passed with Lecce, Biales, Kirkpatrick, Arafah, and McCoid voting aye, and Giuliano voting nay. Stephan Allison to contact MAC650 to discuss holding the Award event there.

Music Sub-Committee

Committee members Hoggard and Arafah met informally on February 12, and discussed active Middletown musical groups and upcoming events. They will announce a formal Music Committee meeting in the future, and invited the participation of other Arts Commissioners.

Old Business

Budget Report - Report was distributed to commissioners electronically.

Program Update

- i) Arts Stakeholders Group – nothing to report.
- ii) Kids Arts – Applications are coming in. All Farm Hill and McDonough School students participate in the free lunch program, so all students from those schools are eligible to attend Kids Arts at no charge.
- iii) Feet to the Fire (F2F) – Meeting first week of March
- iv) Poet Laureate – Susan Allison is opening for Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco's reading at Middlesex Community College on March 2.
- v) Municipal Bldg. update – ongoing
- vi) Other – none

Other – none.

New Business

2016-2017 budget – submitted by Stephan Allison to the City.

Grants / Grants Panels – covered at beginning of meeting

Other – The Commission expressed its appreciation to Illiano's for the complimentary pizza for the extended meeting.

Miscellaneous

Grant Reports – ongoing

Announcements

Middletown Public Schools will have their annual art show at Zilkha Gallery March 5 through 13.

Middletown High School is presenting "Guys and Dolls" on March 10, 12, and 13.

Greater Middletown Chorale will present a Bernstein / Haydn concert on May 1.

Adjournment

Chair Lecce entertained a motion from Faraci to adjourn at 9:14 PM, seconded by Biales.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting is Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at 7:00pm, Room 208 of the Municipal Building, 245 deKoven Drive, Middletown.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Faraci, Secretary