



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 26, 2016
7:00 P.M.
Room 208, Municipal Bldg.
245 deKoven Drive

Present

Lee Godburn (Chair)
Franca Biales (Vice chair)
Julia Faraci (Secretary)
Barbara Arafah
Jay Hoggard (left 8:05p)
Joyce Kirkpatrick (left 7:45p)
Charlotte McCoid (arr 7:06p)
Sebastian Giuliano (arr 7:11p)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Arts Coordinator

Absent

Susan Allison, Poet Laureate
Robert Santangelo
Cassandra Day

Call to Order

Lee Godburn (Chair), called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in Room 208, Municipal Bldg., 245 deKoven Drive, Middletown.

Public Session – no members of the public present.

Minutes

September 28, 2016 – Motion by Biales to approve Minutes as written, seconded by Faraci, carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Kirkpatrick moved to shift discussion of Grants forward in the agenda in order to retain quorum for the vote. Seconded by Biales, carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair -None

New Business (moved per "Approval of Agenda") - Grants

Godburn requested motion to approve grant awards as proposed by the grants panel (Commissioners Biales, Day, and McCoid). Faraci moved to accept grant awards as proposed, Biales seconded. Discussion of each award ensued. Ayes: Hoggard, Godburn, Faraci, Arafah, Biales, Kirkpatrick, McCoid; Nays: none; Abstentions: Giuliano.

Connecticut Storytelling Center, Inc.	support for storytelling residency in pre-schools	\$1500
Greasy Films	support for post-production costs on local comedy/drama film	\$2500
New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	support for professional coaching to high school musicians	\$750
Greater Middletown Chorale	support for NHSO for performance of Handel's Messiah	\$1000
Salt Marsh Opera Company	supporting opera in the Middletown schools for 5th/6th graders	\$2000
Jordan Dykstra	support for "Still Life with Water", multidisciplinary public performance	\$0
Mdln. Public Schools Cultural Council	supporting Middletown High School Goes to the Symphony 2017	\$2000
Russell Library	support for Readers' Theater performances	\$0
Russell Library	support for two Hip Hop events	\$1500

Total awarded: \$11,250

Faraci expressed appreciation to McCoid for taking her place on the Grants Panel when she was called out of town.

Old Business

Budget Report

Arts Coordinator Allison distributed to the commissioners electronically.

Program Update

- i) Arts Stakeholders Group - nothing to report
- ii) Kids Arts update – The program will run from the last week of June through July 29 at Spencer School. The theme of Circus will be Middletown History Revisited.
- iii) Fireworks Festival/Summer Sounds update – The Fireworks Festival will take place on Saturday, July 1st, and the headliner will be The Sugar Kings. Purchase of an easily set-up platform is under consideration.
- iv) Poet Laureate –Coordinator Allison reported that Poet Laureate Susan Allison is once again healthy, which the Commission is glad to hear. He said that her recent appearances have been on short notice, depending on the state of her health, and that she posts her appearances on her Facebook page. She will appear as usual the last Thursday of the month from 10am to 2pm at Brewbaker's North. She will also appear at a "Poet's Corner" event at the Library next month (Friday, November 18). The Arts Coordinator will assist her with setting up a group email so that she can notify the Commissioners of upcoming appearances as requested.

- v) Municipal Building update – ongoing
- vi) Facebook/Wordpress –As Arts2Go is closing, the server expires on December 13. Users will be directed to the Arts2Go Facebook page CityOfMiddletownArtsandCulture/Arts2Go. The Arts Calendar will continue to be printed and posted as a PDF while the listings of arts events will now be posted on Facebook. Allison will be meeting with Joe Samolis on details. Biales asked that the newly forming Social Media Committee be included in Facebook planning meetings.
- vii) Review changing focus for awarding grants – Executive Committee met to review Grants consideration, and recommended a separate application for Category 1 Grants. The application documents will be updated so that it will be explained that it is possible to save and store the document so it can be completed and submitted electronically. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Work Plan will also be available on the website as a helpful resource.
- viii) Other – none

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – no report.

Public Art Committee – no report.

Nominating Committee –Arafeh brought forward the names of Kerry Kinsey and Trevor Davis as potential nominees to fill two of the three Arts Commission vacancies. Arafeh was requested to approach these candidates and determine their interest in serving on the Commission before their names are brought to the Mayor.
Changing the MCA monthly meeting dates was briefly addressed.

Planning and Projects Committee - Arts advocacy – Committee Chair Godburn tasked Faraci with sending an email reminder to Commissioners to solicit nominations for the Arts Advocacy Award.

Music Subcommittee – Kitty Kathryn will be Middletown’s new Music Ambassador. This was announced at her recent concert. There will be a press conference by the Mayor to officially announce this to the community. The Arts Coordinator will assist in setting up her community involvement for the year.

Sicilian Tenors concert – Attendees from various Italian American associations throughout the state enjoyed this concert.

Singalong – Dr Silverstein has added a lot by his participation with his ukulele. The group is looking for more participants with instruments.

The Russian Department at Wesleyan has expressed interest in GMCA’s production of “Eugene Onegin”.

New Business

Changes to meeting dates – The December 21 Commission meeting date was confirmed.

Music Ambassador – reported on by Music subcommittee

New Subcommittee for Social Media – ongoing – Day and Biales have volunteered to be on the Social Media subcommittee, as has Faraci. More subcommittee members will be solicited.

Other - Subcommittee assignments: ongoing.

Miscellaneous

Announcements -

Arafeh recommended the Idea Swap, sponsored by NEFA (New England Foundation for the Arts), in Springfield on November 2.

Greater Middletown Concert Association’s season will continue with its upcoming opera programs, Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin on November 13, and Puccini’s Tosca on May 26, 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Faraci; seconded by McCoid, at 8:44pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Nov. 30 at 7pm in the Community/Senior Center, 61 Durant Terrace.

Respectfully submitted by, and wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving,

Julia Faraci
Secretary