

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, January 23, 2013

Present

Lee Godburn (chair)
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Richard Kamins
Linda Salafia
Franca Biales
Lea Tomaszewski
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Hannah Breton (Student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Bob Santangelo (council)
Barbara Arafah
Charlotte McCoid
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)

Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in room 208, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive

Public session: Sue Birch is in attendance tonight for the purposes of observation and getting to know the MCA.

Minutes from December 12, 2012

Motion to approve by Richard, seconded by Franca. Discussion: Joyce posed a correction to the announcements relating to the Letters from Italy lecture/talk at Middlesex Hospital. Old wording: Dec. 13th, at 8 a.m. at Middlesex Hospital will be the first presentation of Letter From Italy, a new opera. Corrected to read: Dec. 13th, at 8 a.m. at Middlesex Hospital will be the site of a lecture/talk on the subject of PTSD as part of the background/research/content of Letter From Italy, a new oratorio. Franca moved to accept as amended, Richard seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Joyce seconded by Richard. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Lee thanked everyone for turning out on this particularly cold winter evening.

Old Business:

Budget Report – Electronically distributed and reviewed both year to date and latest month general ledger, special licenses, and grants. The amount of grant funds available reads as 55,000, but because of two outstanding grant contracts from September to fill the actual amount available is less. Once the grantees return the contract, the actual balance is \$51,500 of which we may reserve at least 10,000 for the March grant go-rounds. This leaves approx. \$41,000 for the January grant cycle.

Program Update

- a) Arts Stakeholders Group: no report
- b) Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce): no report

Website – Arts2Go.org - the blog is now up and functioning. It allows greater flexibility in promoting things that don't fit on the events page. Others may and will contribute.

Budget: 2013 – 2014 presented and discussed. Stephan's budget totals for the 2013-2014 funding period are: general admin. \$8,100; public art \$990; Kids Arts \$121,702; grants \$63,000; music licenses \$1,300; special programs \$17,091. Richard made a motion to accept the budget as presented for 2013- 2014 and Jenny seconded. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Public Art Committee:

- a) Catalogue of Public Art Collection: ongoing.
- b) MCAAAA 2013 – ongoing
- c) Display Area Dedication: ongoing

Planning & Projects Committee:

- a) 40th Anniversary - ongoing.
- b) Arts Advocacy Day nominee suggestions: The award will be presented to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and Carolyn Kirsch.

Nominating Committee:

- a) Review of Bylaws: ongoing.
- b) Nomination suggestions: ongoing.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): Kids Arts work is underway and applications are being readied for the printer.

New Business:

Grant Review Process: Discussion about whether the commission will begin to incorporate a rubric to assess success of grants. The commission will move forward on finding a way to do this as an end of year assessment. Discussion about streamlining our grant applications into less arduous applications will continue online with samples of new, simpler forms. Discussion to continue in the February meeting, and commissioners are asked to bring their suggestions and observations for this meeting.

Grant Panel selection for Cat. 2 & 3 Jan. applications: Joyce, Lee, Cassandra (Franca as back-up) on February 13th from 6p – 8p at the City Arts Office.

Cat. 1 interviews date set: for February 27 beginning at 5 p.m. with the regular MCA meeting to be pushed back to 8 p.m. The grants panel and the meeting will be at the City Arts Office.

Other: Committees for 2013: Nominating: Richard (chair), Fran, Jenny. Public Arts: Charlotte (chair), Joyce, Cassandra, Jenny. Publicity: Lea, Cassandra. Kids Arts: Franca, Jenny, Barbara, Charlotte (chair) Planning: Lee (chair), Franca, Richard. Archive: Barbara, Joyce, Linda (chair)

Miscellaneous:

Grant Report Reviews: Rev. Wynn is proposing to move his Gospel festival from June to Sept. 14 with a rain date of Sept. 21. Motion to accept the change from Joyce, seconded by Richard, carried.

Grant reports previously distributed electronically and reviewed.

Announcements: On Feb. 8, 2013, there will be an illustrated lecture and discussion called The Last Ridge: The Epic Story of America's first Mountain Soldiers, free at Chapman Hall, Middlesex Community College as a part of Letters From Italy by the Greater Middletown Chorale.

Other: Student Rep Hannah Breton shared about the MHS Band trip to the inauguration in Washington D.C. Jenny shared about the successful MHS Debate on the Emancipation Proclamation at Russell Library.

Adjournment: Richard moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Lee. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on February 27, 2013 in suite 140, City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center at a special start time of 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Hawkins Lecce