

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, April 24, 2013

Present

Lee Godburn (chair)
Richard Kamins
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Charlotte McCoid (8:09)
Barbara Arafah
Franca Biales
Lea Tomaszewski
Bob Santangelo (council)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Cassandra Day (vice chair)
Linda Salafia (council)
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)
Hannah Breton (Student rep)

Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in room 208, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive.

Public session: Eva Dykas (Art Guild of Middletown) is in attendance tonight for the purposes of observation and getting to know the MCA.

Minutes from March 27, 2013

Motion to approve by Kamins, seconded by Santangelo. Discussion: no discussion. Carried with abstentions from Godburn and Arafah.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Kamins seconded by Lecce. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Commission Chair Godburn discussed his recent trip to Asia and in particular, Singapore. He was struck by the percentage of public money going into public art and found inspiration in their commitment to the arts. Among the larger outdoor works were extravagant art installations including a full lake and forested area built on top of a thirty story tall building.

Old Business:

Budget Report –Coordinator Allison updated the commission on the current running totals. Copies being distributed electronically.

Program Update

- a) Arts Stakeholders Group: ongoing
- b) Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce): Coordinator Allison met with Cathy Duncan who shared that the Council is currently on the back burner until further notice.

Website – Arts2Go.org - we are getting a dedicated IP address for the website.

Budget: 2013 – 2014 : Presented on April 16, the budget was accepted by the mayor without changes. Budget will go through a vote with the council, public session before the end of the month.

Committee Reports:

Public Art Committee:

- a) Catalogue of Public Art Collection: Lecce will pursue a possible purchase from a formally MCA funded artist- Coordinator Allison will review what funds may be available.
- b) MCAAAA 2013 – The MHS Art Show – with MCAAAA – will be held to coincide with the MHS Honor Student evening on May 16.
- c) Display Area Dedication: ongoing

Planning & Projects Committee:

- a) 40th Anniversary - ongoing.
- b) Arts Advocacy Day: Great turnout with about 35 people attending. Commissioner Kirkpatrick gave a speech during the dedication. The local presses covered the event. A brass plaque for the site of the dedication is in the works. Community Foundation sent a thank you for their recognition. Carolyn Kirsch sent a thank you through Kamins.

Nominating Committee:

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

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): Kids Arts recruitment summer circus is ongoing. Arafah brought up some thoughts about the ways in which the various groups, arts and otherwise, could alert each other to their scheduled event dates. Discussion ongoing.

New Business:

Grant Panel minutes: Distributed electronically and Lecce read the minutes to the commission. Biales shared that there was a total request of \$21,389, more than twice the available funds.

Grant Panel recommendations: The three panelists: Biales, McCoid and Arafah reviewed each application, answered questions. Discussion followed. Recommendations were as follows: Open Door Missionary Baptist Church with \$1,200; Russell Library Film Series with \$0; Carolyn Reeves/Water Mural with \$4,000; Trinabago American Cultural Explorers, Inc. (TACE) with \$3,800; NEAR, Inc. with \$0.

Grant award decisions: Kamins moved to accept the recommendation of \$4,000 for the NEAC Water Awareness mural with the following requirements: 1. See samples of muralists artwork and/or the artists rendition of the proposed mural, 2. Confirming with CHC in a written agreement stating the minimum length of stay and installation longevity. McCoid seconds. Carried unanimously.

Lecce motioned that we disqualify two grants, NEAR, Inc. and Russell Library, due to non-compliance with application requirements. Kamins seconded. Carried unanimously.

Biales motioned that Trinbago American Cultural Explorers receive the recommended amount of \$3,800. Seconded by McCoid. Carried with a single abstention from Santangelo.

Kamins motioned that we accept the recommendation of granting \$1,200 to the Open Door Missionary Baptist Church, McCoid seconded. Lecce motioned to amend the motion to stipulate a five child minimum enrollment per session. Godburn seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of accepting the amendment. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

Grant Review Process: ongoing.

Miscellaneous:

Announcements: Arafah announced that Greater Middletown Concert Assoc. is presenting Don Giovanni on May 14. 64 adults have signed up for the MILE class on Don Giovanni. Coordinator Allison announced that the Sunday performance for Letter from Italy has been sold out but that tickets were still available for Friday's dress rehearsal. Biales shared that the Big Draw was a great event. Middletown Goes to the Symphony on May 23. The MHS Art Show – with MCAAAA – will be held to coincide with the MHS Honor Student evening on May 16. Robyn Price is having an upcoming opening at TBT on May 1 and Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Adjournment: Kamins moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Biales. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on May 22, 2013 in room 208, Municipal Building, 245 Dekoven Drive at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Hawkins Lecce