

# Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, May 22, 2013

## Present

Lee Godburn (chair)  
Cassandra Day (vice chair)  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)  
Barbara Arafah  
Franca Biales (7:30)  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Charlotte McCoid  
Linda Salafia (council)

## Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff  
  
  
  
  
  
Mayor Dan Drew (7:50 arrival)

## Absent

Fran Ganguli  
Richard Kamins  
Lea Tomaszewski  
Chelsea Rak (student rep)  
Lauren Hodge (student rep)  
Hannah Breton (Student rep)  
Bob Santangelo (council)

## Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in room 208, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive

**Public session:** No public in attendance

## Minutes from April 24, 2013

Motion to approve by McCoid, seconded by Hawkins Lecce. Discussion: no discussion. Carried unanimously with Salafia and Kirkpatrick abstaining.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Hawkins Lecce, seconded by McCoid. Carried unanimously.

## Remarks from the Chair

Godburn welcomed the coming summer season.

## Old Business:

**Budget Report** –The commission reviewed the budget forms. Allison electronically distributed the current spreadsheets for review prior to the meeting.

### Program Update

a) Arts Stakeholders Group: ongoing.

**Website – Arts2Go.org** - ongoing.

**Budget: 2013 – 2014:** Council made changes to the City budget and it is now back on the Mayor's desk.

## Committee Reports:

### Public Art Committee:

- a) Catalogue of Public Art Collection: ongoing. Needs for signage are being collected, along with other curatorial tasks needing to be done.
- b) MCAAAA 2013 – The MHS Art Show – with MCAAAA – works included students from multiple schools. Judges were Charlotte McCoid, Jenny Hawkins Lecce, Georgia Svolos, Kate Ten Eyck, Gail Edmunds. The work was terrific, and the MCA extended its recognition to include

additional Honorary Mention awards. MCAAAA 2013 winner is Lydia Tonkonow and Honorary Mentions went to Jessica Harvey, Erin DeLeon, Gina Jarzabek. Hawkins Lecce will present the award at the MHS award ceremony on June 7.

- c) Display Area Dedication: ongoing, Middletown Preservation and Design Review Board will provide \$100 toward plaque honoring Patricia Evans, Allison will follow up with Jeff Bianco to arrange payment.

**Planning & Projects Committee:**

- a) Arts Advocacy Day: off the agenda for now.

**Nominating Committee:**

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

**Other:** (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): Kids Arts recruitment for summer Circus is ongoing.

**New Business:**

**Visual Art Competition:** Kirkpatrick motions to put this agenda item on hold until the Mayor arrives, McCoid seconds, carried unanimously.

The Mayor arrived at 7:50 and presented his ideas about instituting a city-wide fine art competition and considering this a way of adding to the City Art Collection. The commission will be assisting in the development of this new idea. Structure items to be considered are categories, prizes/awards, expenses, suggested themes. The Commission will meet (at a date in June, to be determined) to workshop this idea. A report with commission recommendations is to be presented to the Mayor before the commission meeting in July. The Mayor left the meeting at 9:55.

**Grant review process:** A review process will occur, probably July, to collectively look at the grants for the year.

**Other:** none

**Miscellaneous:**

**Announcements:** Arafah commented on the well attended reception at Nora's Cupcake for Oddfellow's "Hear What's in the Heart" opening performance. Arafah noted that channel 8 is going to have a reporter placed in the Middletown Press offices. Kirkpatrick announced that Josh Whedon is the speaker at Wesleyan University's commencement which is open to the public.

**Other:** The Carolyn Reeves grant update is that we are still waiting for the letter from the Community Health Center determining length of stay on its building.

**Adjournment:** moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m., seconded by Biales. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on June 26, 2013 in the City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center – Suite 140 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce