

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, September 25, 2013

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (vice chair)
Franca Biales (sec.)
Lea Tomaszewski
Lee Godburn
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Linda Salafia

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Richard Kamins
Charlotte McCoid
Barbara Arafah
Bob Santangelo

Call to order

Commission Chair Cassandra Day called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in room 208, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive

Public session: Yvonne Joy, Girl Scout leader, Alexis Volpe and her mother presented to the commission. Alexis, in working to earn a Silver Award, is creating a Sandy Hook Memorial to honor the 8 Girl Scout Daisies who lost their lives on December 14, 2012. The large sheet metal daisy will be installed at Smith Park this fall.

Minutes from July, 24, 2013

Motion to approve by Salafia, seconded by Godburn. Discussion: no discussion. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

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

Remarks from the Chair

Chair Cassandra Day is very excited about serving as the chair for MCA. Welcomes all ideas.

Old Business:

a) Budget Report

Allison electronically distributed the current spreadsheets for review prior to the meeting. There was a transfer of funds for Italian night from administration fund.

b) Program Update

- i. Arts Stakeholders Group: No update. There have been no meetings. Commissioners discussed possible ways to re-start meeting and some difficulties faced. Allison pointed out that perhaps **Arts2Go.org** in some ways has helped in keeping everyone informed about functions and dates. Allison will see if stakeholders are interested in meeting again at regular intervals.

c) Visual Arts Competition

Community Supported Art- an article from the NY Times. Allison will get copies to commissioners to read and see if it is something Middletown might want to do.

d) Grant Review Process

- i. General process - Yearly review of grant reports to be done perhaps in September or October this year and June or July in subsequent years. Good way to collect data on grants, assess trends, get feedback.
- ii. Category 1 application update - Use same form as for Category 2 and 3 but require more info on financials and a deeper narrative. COA- has different formula where they have streamlined the process. Sustaining organizations need to be in a different category. Discussion ensued. Sustaining is difficult because funds are drying up. MCA is a constant in supporting local organizations.

Committee Reports:

a) **Public Art Committee**

Baldassini Reception plans – Hawkins Lecce has volunteered to organize reception using farm theme and include local farmers – i.e. farm to table. Baldassini uses a technique similar to the old masters. Perhaps he can speak about it. Godburn suggested possible venues such as MCC. Biales suggested perhaps working with VoAg at MHS. Hawkins Lecce will bring suggestions to Public Arts sub-committee to discuss reception options.

b) **Planning & Projects Committee** – no update

c) **Nominating Committee**

Chair Day appointed commissioners Kamins, Tomaszewski, and Godburn to the nominating committee.

- i. Review of Bylaws – no update
- ii. Nomination suggestions-we currently have one vacancy.

d) **Other (including Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee)**

Kids Arts was a success. In spite of rough beginning, the summer program ran very smoothly. Huge turnout for the circus.

New Business:

a) **Grant Panel and interview date selection**

Hawkins Lecce made a motion to add to next month's agenda a proposal to allow the commission to alter the language of our policy to include the full commission, as available, on the grant panel, with a minimum of three confirmed panelists and one alternate. Salafia seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Panel was selected for Oct. 9. Hawkins Lecce, Tomaszewski, Kirkpatrick. Day will be alternate.

b) **Other**-none

Miscellaneous:

a) **Grant Reports**-commission will be reviewing them.

b) **Announcement**- October is National Arts and Humanities month.

c) **Other**- Summer Sounds had better attendance than last year. Good selection of artists. Attendance could still be better. Day suggested that artists provide the press with small bios, pictures and brief description of their works with possible YouTube links to better advertise themselves. Kirkpatrick recommended adding some visual interest with colored lanterns and also suggested that we dress up the showmobile. Day also suggested targeting specific groups who might be interested in particular performances. Italian Night concert was well received.

Adjournment:

Chair Day entertained a motion from Kirkpatrick to adjourn at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Godburn. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 in room #208 of the Municipal Building on 245 DeKoven Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Franca Biales