

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, April 23, 2014

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.chair)
Franca Biales (sec.)
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Charlotte McCoid (7:07)
Lee Godburn
Sara MacSorley
Sebastian Giuliano (7:34)
Barbara Arafah
Anthony Moran (student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff

Absent

Robert Santangelo
Richard Kamins
Lance Timmons (student rep)
Fran Ganguli

Call to order

Commission Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Municipal Building Room 208

Public session: Elaine Bank introduced herself and told the commission that she is involved with the River Redevelopment. She would like to see the arts be part of the River Redevelopment.

Minutes from March 26, 2014

- Motion to approve by Godburn, seconded by Hawkins Lecce . Discussion: none. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Godburn. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair- Chair Day welcomed Sara MacSorley. She expressed her appreciation in having Sara onboard and hopes that the other open seat on the commission will be filled soon.

Old Business:

a) Budget Report

Allison electronically distributed the current spreadsheets for review prior to the meeting. Public hearing on the budget is tomorrow. Would like to see more members of the public speaking on behalf of the arts. Public art was raised to \$1000, and \$600 for student awards. Kids Arts gained some money for NEAR and not for Oddfellows. Music licenses went up \$100.

b) Program Update

- i. Arts Stakeholders Group – last meeting was focused on riverfront and ideas on how to use the riverfront this summer and fall. Summer sounds will move to Harbor Park. Create Here Now is promoting drumming groups for the summer. Impact would like to have some drumming sessions by the river. Suggestions came from stakeholders; MCA will work to make some of the activities a reality. Some ideas include exercise on the river on weekend mornings during the summer, farmers' market, regular transportation to the river for seniors, drumming groups.

Committee Reports:

a) Public Art Committee

- i. Revising policies and discussing the liability of art that is stored in City Arts office. Will be recommending that art remain with the artists until the art is actually purchased. City public art policy will be worked on at next Public Art Committee meeting. There was discussion about the relationship between the MCA and all public art that is accepted by the city. There was discussion about donated art and purchased art.

- b) **Executive Committee**- no report
- c) **Planning and Projects Committee**- no report- Godburn followed up on certificate of appreciation for Mr. Scileppi. Looking into new ideas for the summer.
- d) **Nominating Committee**
 - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
 - ii. Nomination suggestions- introduced new member to MCA, Sara MacSorley.

New Business:

- a) Endowment Research Committee- Chair Day asked Barbara Arafef, Sebastian Giuliano and Lee Godburn to serve on this committee. Giuliano will chair.
- b) Conflict of Interest updates- commissioners will fill them out and Arts Office will keep on file.
- c) Grant decisions (Panel recommendations)

March 2014 cat 2&3 Grant Applications	Amount approved
Mt.Olive Church of Christ	\$0
Paul Baldassini	\$0
Lee T. McQuillan	\$1,250
Middlesex Community College	\$1,000
Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council	\$2,250
Marc Pettersen	\$250
Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater	\$500
Trinbago American Cultural Explorers	\$500
WESU 88.1 FM	\$1,000
Connecticut Ballet	\$2,250

Godburn made motion to accept grant panel recommendation of \$500 for Mr. Olive Church of Christ seconded by Giuliano. Motion failed 7-1 (Biales): 1 abstention (Arafef).

Godburn made motion to accept grant panel recommendation of \$0 for Paul Baldassini seconded by Kirkpatrick. Motion passed unanimously.

Kirkpatrick made motion to accept grant panel recommendation of \$1,000 for Middlesex Community College, seconded by Giuliano. Motion passed unanimously.

Godburn made motion to accept grant panel recommendation of \$250 for Marc Pettersen seconded by Kirkpatrick. Motion passed with one abstention (MacSorley).

Godburn made motion to accept grant panel recommendation of \$500 for Oddfellows, seconded by Hawkins Lecce. Giuliano makes amendment to allow Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater to use grant money for any project as needed. Motion passed as amended.

Godburn made a motion to accept the grant panel recommendation of \$500 for Trinbago American Cultural Explorers, seconded by Giuliano. Motion passed unanimously.

Hawkins Lecce made a motion to accept the grant panel recommendation of \$1,000 for WESU 88.1 seconded by Godburn. Motion passed with one abstention (MacSorley).

Hawkins Lecce made a motion to accept the panel recommendation of \$2,250 for Connecticut Ballet, seconded by Giuliano. Motion passed unanimously.

Godburn made motion to divide \$500 equally between Lee T. McQuillan and MPSCC and add to the panel recommendations of \$1,000 for McQuillan and \$2,000 for Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council, seconded by Giuliano. Motion passed with two abstentions (Kirkpatrick, Biales).

d) Other-

D-Day celebration at the Elks on 6/1/14. Giuliano moved that we purchase a \$100 ad in their program booklet out of our discretionary fund. Seconded by Godburn. Discussion that this might set a bad precedent. Motion passed with 7-2 vote (Kirkpatrick, Arafef).

Elaine Bank asked through a letter to the MCA for permission to use the Municipal Building lobby Feb. 2015 for a display celebrating the Middletown Garden Club's 100 birthday. The Commission supports this and would like more information.

Miscellaneous:

Grant Reports-none

Announcements-

GMC Presents Beatitude Mass, Sat. May 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm at MHS

Vintage Players celebrating 20th anniversary with performance on April 25-27 at Green St.

Barbara Arafah reported on the success of Ellis Island, The Dream of America

Madame Butterfly- May 23,2014 @ 7:30 pm MHS Performing Art Center

May 1st Artists for World Peace fundraiser at Wadsworth Mansion-Great food and music

MARC 23rd Annual Business Appreciation Celebration, May 15, 2014

Other-none

Adjournment:

Hawkins Lecce made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Giuliano. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 28 2014, room B19 Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Franca Biales