

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, July 23, 2014

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
JennyHawkinsLecce (v.chair)
Franca Biales (sec.)
Lee Godburn
Barbara Arafeh
Richard Kamins (7:14)
Charlotte McCoid
Robert Santangelo
Sebastian Giuliano

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff
Julia Faraci
David Bauer

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Sara MacSorley

Call to order

Commission Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Municipal Building Room 208

Public session: David Bauer, Middletown Common Council member, brought to the attention of the MCA ordinance 14-21 requiring a semi-annual report to the Mayor and Common Council. In addition to arts2go.org, MCA publishes a monthly arts calendar. It will be noted on the monthly arts calendar that the arts calendar will also serve as report to the Mayor and Common Council in accordance with ordinance 14-21.

Julia Faraci introduced herself and said she was present to observe.

Minutes from June 25, 2014

Motion to approve by Godburn, seconded by Giuliano. Discussion: none. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

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

Remarks from the Chair-none

Old Business:

- a) **Budget Report**-No discussion on report emailed to Commission. The budget scenario requested by the Commission at its last meeting for expansion of the Kids Arts programming to encompass full-day coverage was presented. Estimated total increase required: \$39,335.36.
- b) **Program Update**
 - i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Will schedule meetings as potluck dinners 4 times a year. Meetings will be held during the dinner hour. Next meeting will be in September. The ASG subcommittee that was formed has been running the Arts Walk.
 - ii. Summer Sounds- There have been three performances so far. Having performances at Harbor Park seems to be drawing larger audiences. There is also a senior bus picking up seniors at Sbona Towers and South Green Apartments. There was discussion on whether parking could be free at Municipal lot for concert goers. Answer was no but for those arriving after 7 pm when there would be no cost due to the structure set up that allows 1st hour free (the lot does not charge after 8 pm).
 - iii. Music Ambassadors- The music of local artists will be the music played when a call to City Hall or other municipal offices is placed on hold. Our local musicians whose music will be played will be conferred the honorary title of Music Ambassadors for the City of Middletown.
- c) **Other**-Commissioner Godburn spoke with Oddfellows to get clarification on the programming needs of Kids Arts and shared his findings with the Commission. He asked Oddfellows and NEAR to discuss what

would be needed and how to provide a full day experience to all students next year and present it to the MCA in September.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Endowment Research Committee** – The endowment proposal is being reviewed by the city attorney.
- b) **Executive Committee**- no report
- c) **Nominating Committee**
 - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
 - ii. Nomination suggestions-Kamins has compiled a list and emailed it asking for input from other commissioners. Chair Day would like a small bio on each of the nominees. There is a good list to present to the Mayor with a request that he appoint a commissioner to fill the vacant seat on MCA.
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee**- Open Air Market will be on August 24. Lee Godburn will inventory what is left from last year to determine if we need anything. Mr. Allison will send out email to arts organizations for literature to be displayed at the MCA table.
- d) **Public Art Committee**- McCoid will send commissioners photos of Gil Scullion's work for commissioners to select from the three final choices.
- e) **Public Art Policy for Acquisitions**-ongoing

New Business

- a) Election of Officers- Ballots were prepared, Chair called for additional nominations, none forthcoming. Giuliano moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Santangelo seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
 - Chair- Cassandra Day
 - Vice Chair- Jennifer Hawkins Lecce
 - Secretary- Franca Biales
- b) Other- Kamins makes a motion to cancel the August meeting, seconded by Godburn. Passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous:

- a) Grant reports -none
- b) Announcements- The Rubinow family sent thank you note for the donation made to the Jewish War Veterans Organization in honor and memory of Sonny Rubinow.
The Three Sicilian Tenors will be performing in Middletown on October 18, 2014.
This will be the final weekend to see King Lear at MxCC.

Adjournment:

Kamins made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Santangelo. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2014, room 208 Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Franca Biales