

# Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, September 24, 2014

## Present

Cassandra Day (chair)  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.chair)  
Franca Biales (sec.)  
Lee Godburn  
Sara MacSorley  
Julia Faraci  
Charlotte McCoid  
Robert Santangelo  
Sebastian Giuliano (8:16)  
Anthony Moran (Student rep)

## Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff  
Dave Downs  
Diane Cipollini  
Roy Lisker  
Kendalyn Zipf  
Sasha Zipf  
Amy Zipf  
Todd Archer  
Amy Flannery  
Jon Romeo  
Betsy Morgan  
Jason Leinwand  
Kristen Palmer  
John Ferrero  
Ann Marie Cannata

## Absent

Fran Ganguli  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Richard Kamins  
Barbara Arafah

## Call to order

Commission Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Municipal Building Room 208

## Public session

Dave Downs, Music Ambassador, recognized. He expressed gratitude for the honor.

John Ferrero, STEM teacher at Macdonough, introduced Sasha Zipf and Todd Archer, students at Macdonough, to express their desire for Middletown to have a poet laureate.

Roy Lisker nominated Tony Connor and himself as Poet Laureates. He also proposed that Susan Allison receive a Distinguished Public Service Award in the Arts.

Amy Zipf, parent, thanked the commission for all we do.

Anne-Marie Cannata spoke in support of the students and noted that they are participants in Kids Arts.

Kristen Palmer, Jason Leinwand and Betsy Morgan from Oddfellows Playhouse shared their proposals to increase the number of students in the Kids Arts Circus program and to increase the circus program from a half day to a full day program and included the costs to do so.

Anne-Marie Cannata spoke regarding Kids Arts and asked for consideration of separating the present age group of 6 to 9 yr. olds into two groups: 6 & 7 yr. olds and 8 & 9 yr. olds and provided the add'l. amount in the budget that would require.

## Minutes from July 23, 2014

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

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Councilman Santangelo, seconded by Commissioner MacSorley. Carried unanimously.

**Remarks from the Chair** - Great to see so many members of the public at the MCA meeting tonight. Complimented the children on their courage to come and speak. Discussed the creation of a subcommittee to investigate the possibility of having a poet laureate and the duties and responsibilities of a poet laureate. Introduced and welcomed Julia Faraci, our newest commissioner.

### **Old Business:**

- a) **Budget Report-** provided electronically to commissioners
- b) **Program Update**
  - i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Next meeting will be January 14, 2015
  - ii. Summer Sounds – Very successful. Attendance grew with each performance. Location was a draw for new and diverse audience. More lighting needed along path to tunnel.
  - iii. Kids Arts wrap-up - Another successful summer. No problems
- c) Semi –annual report to Mayor/Common Council to be discussed next month- each commissioner might present to the Common Council
- d) Kids Arts expansion considerations- Rich discussion among the commission and Kristen Palmer, Jason Leinwand, Besty Morgan and Ann Marie Cannata
- e) Other- Letter from Dic Wheeler with regard to another successful run of Shakespeare in the Grove, King Lear; Six Arts Organizations from Middletown received funds from the State through the "Supporting Arts in Place" grant program for a total of \$29,733.17

### **Committee Reports:**

- a) **Endowment Research Committee** – ongoing
- b) **Executive Committee-** no report
- c) **Nominating Committee-** no report
  - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee-** Commissioner Godburn reported Open Air Market had a great turnout. Would like commissioners to start thinking about next year's Arts Advocacy Award
- e) **Public Art Committee-** A piece by Gil Scullion has been purchased.
  - i. **Public Art Policy for Acquisitions-**ongoing, rich discussions about mission statement, role of the commission, how do we acquire and display art, how does art fit into the fabric of the town, etc.

### **New Business**

- a) Grants panel selection/interview date for Cat 2&3 applicants – October 8, 2014  
Commissioners MacSorley, Godburn and McCoid will serve on panel. Commissioner Biales will serve as alternate
- b) Other- Commissioner Godburn will send out notice seeking volunteers to serve on sub-committee to discuss role of poet laureate  
Applicants applied for funding from MCA in the same calendar year.  
Motion made by Commissioner Hawkins Lecce, that, due to leadership changes at Oddfellows, we will allow Oddfellows a one time exception to apply for a Category 2 grant twice within a one year period.  
Seconded by Commissioner McCoid. Discussion.  
Motion was defeated 8-1. Yes: Hawkins Lecce. No: McCoid, MacSorley, Faraci, Day, Biales, Godburn, Santangelo, Giuliano

### **Miscellaneous:**

- a) Grant reports -none
- b) Announcements- Gilbert and Sullivan will be performing at Valley Regional the first weekend in October; MARC Community Resources will have its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on October 16, 2014, invitation to Commissioners will be sent electronically.

### **Adjournment:** 9:14 pm

The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, room 208 Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Franca Biales