

# Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, April 22, 2015

## Present

Cassandra Day (chair)  
Franca Biales (sec.)  
Charlotte McCoid  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Barbara Arafeh  
Jay Hoggard  
Julia Faraci  
Robert Santangelo  
Sebastian Giuliano  
Anthony Moran (Student rep)

## Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff

## Absent

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.c)  
Jackie Pawlak (Student rep)  
Fran Ganguli  
Sara MacSorley  
Lee Godburn

## Call to order

Cassandra Day, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in Municipal Building, room 208.

**Public Session** – 4 members of the public present. Councilman Bauer encouraged the MCA to submit recommendations for street names that honor and promote the history and heritage of Middletown to Public Works.

## Minutes

a) March 25, 2015 - Motion to approve by Councilman Giuliano seconded by Councilman Santangelo. Motion passed with two abstentions. Councilmen Santangelo and Giuliano abstained.

**Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve by Councilman Giuliano seconded by Councilman Santangelo. Passed unanimously.

**Remarks from the Chair** –Glad to be back after a 2 month hiatus.

## Old Business:

a) **Budget Report**- Stephan Allison spoke before Common Council on behalf of MCA budget. Discussion about the Arts budget as an investment in projects. Good marketing for the city. Discussed whether funding for the arts is adequate.

There is a charge to Kids Arts for \$100.65 that was an error. The correction will appear next month.

## b) Program Update

i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Met at MAC 650 gallery. There will be state funding for 9 regional arts groups for about \$360,000 total.

ii. Summer Sounds – Ongoing. Will continue to be held at Harbor Park.

iii. Kids Arts- Creative Arts workshops are full. Still taking applications for Children’s Circus.

iv. Fireworks- July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Will begin at 4:00 pm. Fireworks at approximately 9:20 pm. Music accompanying fireworks to be broadcast live on WMRD.

c) **Semi-annual report to Mayor/Common Council** – Chair Day will speak at the May 4, 2015 Common Council meeting.

## Committee Reports:

a) **Endowment Research Committee** – ongoing

b) **Executive Committee**- ongoing

c) **Nominating Committee**- no report

i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing – Will review recusal process when voting on grant proposals

d) **Planning and Projects Committee**-

- i. Poet Laureate- Poet Laureate Committee will select peer panel committee.
  - ii. Kids Arts expansion considerations-no report
- e) **Public Art Committee**
- i. Public Art Policy for Acquisitions- ongoing
  - ii. Senior /Community Center –on going
  - iii. Ghezzi donation- Offer of donation for City Art Collection from Patricia Ghezzi. It is a photograph that was selected by the Lily Foundation as a 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner, no action taken

**New Business**

- a) Offer of donation for City Art Collection from Wesleyan German Studies Dept.- John Risley piece. The Public Art Committee will facilitate.
- b) March Grants Categories 2&3 Panel recommendation to the full commission.

Trevor Davis	\$2,500
Russell Library	\$1,500
NEAR	\$1,000
Trinbago	\$2,700
Open Door Missionary Baptist Church	\$1,000
Connecticut Ballet	\$3,000

Motion to approve the panel recommendations for the March categories 2&3 grants made by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner McCoid. Motion passed with two abstentions. Councilmen Santangelo and Giuliano abstained.

**Miscellaneous**

- a) Grant Report(s)- none
- b) Announcements
  - GMC will present Mozart’s Requiem, Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 pm. Performing Arts Center @MHS
  - Middletown Goes to the Symphony will be May 11, 2015 at the Bushnell.
  - May 29, 2015 - La Bohème at Performing Arts Center @MHS
  - April 25, 2015 The Big Draw at Wesleyan 1-4 pm
  - Barbara Arafeh is hosting Sing Along once a month at Senior/Community Center
  - April 29, 2015 MILE sponsored trip to Ellis Island
  - May 9, 2015 Feet to the Fire-Riverfront Encounter Festival at Harbor Park
  - May 15, 2015 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Garden Club
  - May 15-17, 2015 Feast of St. Sebastian
  - May 8, 2015 Sandbox Arts open house at Starr Mill

**Adjournment**

Adjournment at 8:50 pm.

The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 in B19, Municipal Building, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Franca Biales