

**Present**

Franca Biales (acting chair)  
Julia Faraci (secretary)  
Lee Godburn  
Barbara Arafeh (left 8:46pm)  
Cassandra Day  
Charlotte McCoid  
Robert Santangelo

**Also Present**

Stephan Allison, Coordinator

**Absent**

Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Fran Ganguli  
Jay Hoggard  
Sebastian Giuliano  
Susan Allison, Poet Laureate  
Alexandra Porczak (student rep)  
Arthur Moore (student rep)

**Call to Order**

Franca Biales, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06pm in the Conference Room at the Middletown Senior/Community Center, 61 Durant Street, Middletown.

**Public Session** – no members of the public present.

**Minutes**

June 22, 2016 - Motion to approve Minutes by Godburn, seconded by Arafeh, carried unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by McCoid to approve agenda, seconded by Day, carried unanimously.

**Remarks from the Chair**

Acting Chair Biales acknowledged Past Chair Jenny Hawkins Lecce for her 10 years of service to the Arts Commission. Biales also expressed appreciation to former member Sara MacSorley, with hopes that her connection with the Commission will continue with her assistance in starting an MCA Facebook page. Biales also noted three vacancies in the Commission.

**Old Business**

**Budget Report** – sent electronically to Commissioners.

**Program Update**

i) Arts Stakeholders Group - nothing to report

ii) Kids Arts update –

The final performance of Kids Arts was today at Spencer School; Santangelo represented the Arts Commission.

Most NEAR children participated in the program for the full day.

All children in the Circus program (125 kids) participated for the full day.

The Circus will be on Friday July 29 at 5pm at Spencer School.

iii) Fireworks Festival/Summer Sounds update

Fireworks Festival - The fireworks received many compliments. The program was a successful showcase for the Music Ambassadors. Food trucks attracted people earlier to enjoy dinner; funds charged to vendors are a source of income for Commission's discretionary funds. Crowds came in from surrounding area, including Hartford, which did not have fireworks this year.

Summer Sounds – More promotion is needed to draw audiences to Harbor Park each Tuesday. Bigger audiences may be attracted after the end of the summer music event season at the Wadsworth Mansion.

Reputation of the park needs improvement.

iv) Poet Laureate

Susan Allison recited a new poem for the Fireworks Festival to the music of the Star Spangled Banner performed by Jay Hoggard. She has also been meeting with poets and poetry lovers at Brewbaker's North on the last Thursday of the month from 10am-2pm. She needed to cancel her last appearance at

Brewbaker's because of health issues. The Commission expressed their best wishes for her rapid return to better health.

v) Municipal Bldg. update – continuing.

Encourage Recycling Office to work with Wesleyan on recycling bins for lobby before academic year starts again; enlist aid of Public Works Dept.

vi) Facebook –

Mayor's office reviews prototype or general template for social media "branding" for City entities. Coordinator to follow up and send template to Day.

**Review changing focus for awarding grants** - ongoing

Project grants deadline is September 15, with the Commission interviewing applicants in October. After giving MCA's recommendations to the Mayor, the Common Council must approve the awards.

With the City's new matching funds requirement for program grants, the Commission notes that many organizations only get their operating budget funds from government sources; many corporations do not give operating support.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** - nothing to report

**Public Art Committee**

i) August 4<sup>th</sup> art event (ArtWalk)

As the City Hall event is not part of the ArtWalk that occurs monthly on Main Street, it will be "re-branded" so as not to conflict or cause confusion with the Main Street ArtWalk. The Commission agreed that the pilot event should go on in August as announced; however, more planning is needed before scheduling more frequently.

The City Hall event differs from the ArtWalk in that the City Hall exhibition is static and not commercial. Strategies for attracting audiences include docents to guide viewers and answer questions, guest artists in attendance to speak and/or create on the spot, scavenger hunts, etc. The ArtWalk on Main Street will continue till October; the Public Art Committee has time to more fully develop a program.

ii) Conservation - continuing

iii) Catalog - continuing

iv) Nominations for the Public Art Commission –

In view of the work assigned to the Public Art Committee, more members are needed for events and projects; nominations were requested.

**Nominating Committee**

Paper ballots were distributed for election of Commission officers for the coming year. The slate was: Lee Godburn, Chair; Franca Biales, Vice-Chair; Julia Faraci, Secretary; write-ins were an option.

**Planning and Projects Committee**

i) Open Air Market at Wadsworth Mansion – August 28

Coordinator will contact arts groups to staff the Arts Commission booth.

Inventory of masks and making supplies to be checked; at least 150 masks are needed.

ii) Music Committee - nothing to report

**New Business**

**MCA Officers Election**

The Commission voted for its officers for the coming year. Lee Godburn was elected Chair, Franca Biales was re-elected Vice-Chair and Julia Faraci was re-elected Secretary, all unanimously.

**Other**

Godburn moved to cancel the August meeting. Motion seconded by McCoid, carried unanimously.

**Miscellaneous**

**Announcements**

ArtFarm's production of "Servant of Two Masters" was very well done.

Wild Bill's continues to have many musical events and urban art in collaboration with Sandbox Arts.

Middletuners Singalong continues with Barbara Arafah at the Senior Center every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

Middletown Stage will present its "Alice in Wonderland, Jr." show at Keigwin this weekend.

Members of Greater Middletown Chorale will be performing in Concora's "Shakespeare's Legacy" concert, on Saturday July 30 at 4pm at Bethany Covenant Church in 4pm in Berlin.

Connecticut Ballet has its Summer Dance Caravan program at Middlesex Community College at 7pm Saturday July 30; admission is free. The Commission expressed concern that there could have been more publicity for this MCA-sponsored event.

Middletown Music Festival is August 5-7 at Middlesex Community College.

Trinbago will present theTrinidad Style Caribbean Carnival at Harbor Park on August 20.

Fusion Inclusion Festival is coming up on September 17 at Harbor Park.

**Other**

The Veterans Memorial dedication will be September 27 at 6pm, Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Faraci; seconded by Day at 8:48pm.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 7:00pm, at the Middletown Senior/Community Center, 61 Durant Street, Middletown.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Faraci, Secretary