

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, November 30, 2016

Present

Lee Godburn, Chair
Franca Biales, Vice Chair
Cassandra Day
Jay Hoggard
Joyce Kirkpatrick, Secretary pro tem
Charlotte McCoid

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Arts Coordinator

Absent

Barbara Arafah
Julia Faraci
Sebastian Giuliano
Robert Santangelo

Susan Allison, Poet Laureate

Call to order: Lee Godburn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM in the Conference Room of the Senior Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown.

Public Session: There being no public present, there was no public session.

Minutes: The Minutes of October 26, 2016 were unanimously approved, following a motion by Franca Biales, seconded by Charlotte McCoid.

Approval of Agenda: Approved unanimously, following a motion by Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Franca Biales.

Remarks from the Chair: Chair Godburn hoped that all had had a lovely Thanksgiving holiday.

Old Business

- a) **Budget Report** – Arts Coordinator Allison had distributed the report electronically. A short discussion ensued: Budget planning will go on in December and January; little money expected from the State; Summer Sounds concerts need more funding.
- b) **Program Update-**
 - 1) **Arts Stakeholders** – meets mostly through e-mail; willing to have a meeting if requested
 - 2) **Kids Arts Update** - Coordinator Allison reported that he had received some money from the State to hire Beth Lapin again for about 12 hours/week through a General Operating Support Grant.
 - 3) **Fireworks Festival/Summer Sounds Update** – Coordinator Allison has booked a band for the Fireworks Festival – *Los Sugar Kings*.
 - 4) **Poet Laureate** – Susan Allison will appear at Russell Library on December 16, 1 PM; also at Brew Bakers on December 29 from 10 AM – 2 PM.
 - 5) **Municipal Building Update** – Recycling Bin project is in progress.
 - 6) **Facebook/Wordpress** – Improved, but only 60 “likes” so far. Go to facebook.com/cityartsoffice. This is the substitute for Arts2Go.org which is history. Coordinator Allison was thanked for developing Arts2Go and for his work on it for many years.

Committee Reports

- a) **Executive Committee** – No report
- b) **Public Art Committee** – No report.
Regatta Posters, formerly in the Planning, Conservation and Development Office; are now stored by the Arts Office. At its next meeting the committee is requested to discuss restoring some of the art and frames needing attention.

- c) **Nominating Committee** – No report. The Commission has 3 vacancies, and names of candidates are to be sent to Chair Godburn, Barbara Arafeh and Coordinator Allison with reasons for their nomination. Discussion.
- d) **Planning and Projects Committee** –
 - i) Music Subcommittee – No Report
 - ii) Arts Advocacy Day – Chair Godburn requested Commission think about it; send nominations for Arts Advocacy Award to him.

New Business

- a) **Grant Awards update** – Letters to awardees went out today from the Mayors' Office. Coordinator Allison and Marco Gaylord conversed about the grant awarded to MPSCC. Gaylord stated he wishes to reapply in January.
- b) **Meeting Dates 2017** – E-mailed by Coordinator Allison. These dates were approved unanimously, following a motion by Charlotte McCoid, seconded by France Biales. Although having different sites for meetings was somewhat problematical, it was decided to keep the proposed schedule.
- c) **Other** – Coordinator Allison reported that the Arts Office's program of **City Music Ambassador** held a small ceremony at the Municipal Building welcoming the jazz songstress Kitty Kathryn as the newly appointed Ambassador. A former member of the Middletown Commission on the Arts, she has written a new song about Middletown for the occasion.

Miscellaneous

- a) **Announcements** – Joyce Kirkpatrick thanked the MCA for its grant in support of the GMChorale's December 18th concert of Handel's *Messiah* with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra at the Middletown Performing Arts Center, inviting all to attend.
- b) **Other** – None

Adjournment – Chair Godburn declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kirkpatrick, Secretary pro tem