

# Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, October 22, 2014

## Present

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.chair)  
Franca Biales (sec.)  
Lee Godburn  
Charlotte McCoid  
Joyce Kirkpatrick(7:05)  
Julia Faraci  
Richard Kamins  
Barbara Arafah  
Robert Santangelo  
Anthony Moran (Student rep)

## Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff  
Thomas Hummel  
Jennette Hummel  
Gabriela Mikunda  
Daniel Hawkins

## Absent

Cassandra Day (chair)  
Fran Ganguli  
Sara MacSorley  
Sebastian Giuliano

## Call to order

Commissioner Hawkins Lecce called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Municipal Building, Room 208

## Public Session

Member of the public and three students of American Politics course at MHS were in attendance

## Minutes

- a) September 24, 2014  
Motion by Commissioner Godburn to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kamins. Discussion: none.  
Carried unanimously.
- b) October 2, 2014 special meeting  
Motion by Commissioner Kamins to approve, seconded by Commissioner Godburn. Discussion: none.  
Carried unanimously.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kirkpatrick to approve the meeting agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner McCoid.  
Carried unanimously.

**Remarks from the Chair** - No remarks

## Old Business:

- a) **Budget Report**- provided electronically to commissioners
- b) **Program Update**
  - i. Arts Stakeholders Group – No report. Next meeting will be January 14, 2015
  - ii. Summer Sounds – No report
  - iii. Kids Arts – Space usage update- Mr. Allison is working to find new space for Kids Arts summer program.
- c) **Semi –annual report to Mayor/Common Council**- Commission will be reporting to the Mayor/Common Council at a date to be determined.
- d) **Other**- none

## 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**-
  - i. Poet Laureate-Commissioner Godburn reported on work done by the subcommittee in creating guidelines for the Poet Laureate and solicited opinions from the Commission with regard to name,

duties, terms, eligibility, and nominations. Subcommittee will meet again to finalize the guidelines incorporating the Commission's recommendations. The name agreed upon is Poet Laureate of Middletown, Connecticut.

- ii. Arts Advocacy Award(s)-nominations were tabled until next meeting. Commissioners are asked to bring nominations to the November meeting. The public is also encouraged to submit nominations. There will be a press release asking for nominations.
  - iii. Kids Arts expansion considerations- Commissioner Godburn asked each commissioner to write a letter to Common Council members expressing the need to expand Kids Arts and why. Middletown is currently providing a great quality, half day program to Middletown residents and also to others in Middlesex County. Out of town participants pay double the full tuition. Recommendation by Godburn is to fully fund both NEAR and Oddfellows proposals to expand the programming. A full day program would encourage more participation from both in town and out of town participants.
- e) **Public Art Committee**
- i. **Public Art Policy for Acquisitions-** no report. Commissioner Godburn asked if MCAAAA could reach out to students from Mercy and Xavier.

**New Business**

- a) Category 2&3 Grants recommendations/decisions  
 Commissioner Kirkpatrick recused herself 8:52.  
 Motion made by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Kamins to accept recommendation of the grant panel to award \$2000 grant to the Greater Middletown Chorale. Carried unanimously.  
 Commissioner Kirkpatrick rejoined meeting 8:53  
 Motion made by Commissioner Kamins, seconded by Commissioner McCoid to accept the grant panel's recommendations for Category 2&3 grants as listed below. Carried unanimously.

Art Guild of Middletown	\$500
North End Artists Cooperative	\$1,000
Middletown Adult Education	\$300
Wesleyan University (CFA)	\$1,000
Middlesex Community College	\$1,000
Salt Marsh Opera Company	\$2,250
Resonant Motion, Inc (RMI)	\$2,250
Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater	\$1,000

- a) Salt Marsh request for endorsement- Asked MCA to write a brief endorsement of the Salt Marsh Opera for their newsletter.
- b) Resolution supporting Art Guild of Middletown's pursuit of Senior/Community Center space for exhibitions- The Art Guild of Middletown would like to use the Middletown Senior Community Center for two art shows that would each last about two weeks.  
 Motion made by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner McCoid to have MCA send a letter of support to the Middletown Senior/Community Services Commission asking them to support and explore the use of their space for the Art Guild of Middletown's spring and winter shows. Carried unanimously.
- c) Other- Trevor Davis- Possible creation of Middletown Arts Center at First Church. Discussion on November 18, 2014 from 7 to 8:30 pm to take place at the Church

**Miscellaneous**

- a) Grant reports – Will be added to the November agenda. Time is needed to discuss the grant reports.
- b) Announcements
  - Richard Kamins will be resigning from MCA. He will be greatly missed.
  - Council Clerk Marie Norwood's son-in-law, Mark Boedges, artist/gallery owner in Burlington, VT recently won Best in show at the American Impressionist Society.

- The Sicilian Tenors' performance presented by the Greater Middletown Concert Association was a huge success
- The Greater Middletown Concert Association will be presenting Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 3:00 pm
- Greater Middletown Chorale will be performing Messiah with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 5:00pm. Performing Arts Center at MHS

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Kamins at 9:20 pm.

The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, room B19 Municipal Building at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Franca Biales