

# Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, May 27, 2015

## Present

Lee Godburn  
Cassandra Day (chair)  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (vice-chair)  
Franca Biales (sec. 7:30 arrival)  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Sara MacSorley  
Barbara Arafeh (7:50 arrival)  
Julia Faraci

## Absent

Fran Ganguli  
Bob Santangelo (council)  
Charlotte McCoid  
Sebastian Guiliano (council)  
Jackie Pawlak (student rep)  
Anthony Moran (student rep)  
Jay Hoggard  
Stephan Allison

## Call to order

Commission Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in room B19, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive.

**Public session:** none

## Minutes from April 22, 2015

Motion to approve by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner McSorley. Discussion. Passes with one abstention (Commissioner Godburn).

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written, by Kirkpatrick; seconded by MacSorley. Carried unanimously.

## Remarks from the Chair

Welcoming remarks.

## Old Business:

**Budget Report** – 2015 – 2016 budget reviewed. Plans for returned and unused funds were discussed.

### Program Update

- a) Arts Stakeholders Group: no report
- b) Summer Sounds- as reported by Stephan, begins 7.7 and ends 9.1
- c) KidsArts- Circus – as reported by Stephan, figures are lagging but efforts are underway to bolster (publicity/yardsigns). Chair Day requests additional specifics: comparison to last year's figures by afternoon, morning and full day participation, as well as publicity efforts (both current and previous years.) This information to be included in packet prior to June meeting and included in the agenda.
- d) Fireworks Festival - as per Stephan, this year will feature Shaded Soul, Prelude, Middletown Symphonic Band, and will have expanded fireworks with live music broadcast on WMRD and online.
- e) Semi-annual report to Mayor Common Council- scheduled for June meeting. Chair Day compiled information packet and will present to the Council in June.

## Committee Reports:

- a) Endowment Research Committee: no report
- b) Executive Committee: will begin meeting no later than the Monday before each monthly meeting for the purpose of composing the agenda.
- c) Nominating Committee:
  - i. Review of Bylaws: Commissioner Godburn will prepare a review to be presented at the next meeting.
  - ii. Conflict of Interest review/recommendations: as pertains Conflict of Interest, Commissioner Godburn asks the executive committee to provide additional details and summary of suggestions under discussion.
  - iii. Preparing slate for July elections: ongoing.
- d) Planning and Projects Committee: ongoing
- e) Poet Laureate: Commissioner Faraci provided guidelines from New Britain Poet Laureate program, as well as details from a discussion held with the outgoing Poet Laureate from West Hartford. Godburn will merge language from the New Britain description along with the state recommendations and will present a new guideline to the MCA. Commissioner MacSorley motions that in light of new research into similar town guidelines, that we make the Poet Laureate a volunteer position with no remuneration. Godburn seconds. Discussion. Passes unanimously.
- f) KidsArts/expansion considerations: ongoing. Commissioners are encouraged to seek feedback from any families or participants they may know. Youth Service Bureau has the My Connections website which acts as a searchable collection house for all programs for area youth and this may be of interest to the KidsArts/Circus.
- g) Public Art Committee:
  - i. MCAAAA ongoing, details for June meeting with funds appropriated prior to meeting. Godburn motions to allow Public Art to frame (if needed) the winning artwork. Joyce seconds. Discussion. Carried unanimously.
  - ii. Public Art Policy for Acquisition: ongoing
  - iii. Senior/Community Center: ongoing
  - iv. Ghezzi donation update: ongoing
  - v. Risle sculpture recommendation: ongoing.
  - vi. Disposition of 2014-2015 funds: Godburn moves that we give the Public Arts Committee permission to access remaining funds for maintenance, curatorial expenses and signage with work to commence on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Jenny seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**New Business:**

- a) Disposition of returned grant funds (\$500, Gospel Fest) : not taking place, money in current budget.
- b) Disposition of rejected grant award (\$2,500, Trevor Davis Midnight on Main): not taking place. Money in current budget. The funds total \$3000.00. Jenny motions that we use the returned \$3000 to give \$500 each to the following organizations: ArtFarm, Oddfellows, Green Street, NEAR, GMCA, GMC. Seconded by Julia. Discussion. Passes unanimously.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Grant Reports:** ongoing

**Announcements:** Barbara Arafah is looking forward this weekend's La Boheme (7:30 curtain), seats are selling well. Premiere of Letter from Italy coming on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Ticket sales coming along. Beyond the Veil photography exhibit closing May 28<sup>th</sup> at Green Street Teaching & Learning Center.

**Other:** none

**Adjournment:** Lee motions to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Sara. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce