

Present

Jenny Hawkins Lecce (chair)
Franca Biales (v. chair)
Julia Faraci (sec.)
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Sara MacSorley
Sebastian Giuliano
Lee Godburn
Charlotte McCoid
Robert Santangelo, arr 7:23pm
Cassandra Day, left 8:13pm
Susan Allison (Poet Laureate)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Jay Hoggard
Barbara Arafteh

Call to Order

Jenny Hawkins Lecce, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm in Room B19, Municipal Building.

Public Session

No members of the public present.

Minutes

- a) October 28, 2015. Secretary Faraci asked to revise New Business Item (f) **Kids Arts Full-day programs** to read “Chair Lecce, Vice Chair Biales, Secretary Faraci and Council Members Giuliani and Santangelo will meet with Ms. Morgan and her Oddfellows team to strategize a presentation to City Council.” Motion to approve by Commissioner Godburn, seconded by Vice Chair Biales. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Council Member Giuliani and seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Congratulations were extended to Mayor Drew and his family on the arrival of their new daughter, Lily Grace. MCA continues to advocate on behalf of the KidsArts program expansion.

Old Business

- a) **Budget Report**
Report was distributed to commissioners electronically.
- b) **Program Update**
 - i) Arts Stakeholders Group – no report
 - ii) Kids Arts – ongoing.
 - iii) Feet to the Fire (F2F) – next meeting is Thursday, Dec 3, at noon at 41 Wyllys Ave.
- c) **Facebook / digital media for promotion** – ongoing.
- d) **Other** – Information regarding a similar Arts Commission in Massachusetts to be distributed.

Committee Reports

- a) **Executive Committee** – Ongoing.
- b) **Public Arts Committee** – Committee Meeting will be scheduled to address items below.
 - i) City-Owned Art – ongoing.
 - ii) Signage – ongoing.
 - iii) Discussion of first Public Arts curated show – Ongoing.
 - iv) Other - The restoration of the Risley work is ongoing.
- c) **Nominating Committee**
 - i) Phone calls to follow up on absent commissioners – ongoing.

d) Planning and Projects Committee

- i) Resolution submitted by David Bauer on celebrating 366 Days of Middletown History and Heritage – Middletown Historical Society and Russell Library will be partnering with MCA.
- ii) Arts Advocacy Awards – Ongoing.

New Business

a) Meeting Schedule for 2016

Approval of 2016 meeting schedule - Motion to approve by Vice Chair Biales, seconded by Commissioner MacSorley. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

b) Grants / Grants Panels

Discussion ensued.

c) Contact sheet updates – Commissioners reviewed and updated their primary contact information.

d) Kids Arts Full-Day Programs appropriation –

Chair Lecce, Vice Chair Biales, Secretary Faraci, Council Members Giuliani and Santangelo, and Stephan Allison met with Betsy Morgan of Oddfellows on November 10 to review presentation of a request to City Council for an appropriation for a revitalized KidsArts program.

Motion by Commissioner Kirkpatrick that Middletown Commission on the Arts approve the request for appropriation in the amount of \$23,723 for Kids Arts full-day program development and implementation to be used beginning this fiscal year. Seconded by Commissioner Day. Carried unanimously.

e) Poet Laureate

Susan Allison read at the Mayor’s Inauguration on November 10, and was well-received. She will be reading again and signing books at Russell Library on Sunday, December 6th.

Miscellaneous

a) Grant Reports – none

b) Announcements

- i) Commissioner Godburn announced the Almshouse Annual Party on December 12.
- ii) Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that Greater Middletown Chorale’s performance of Faure’s “Requiem” on November 22 at Bethany Church will be dedicated to the people who have lost their lives in the recent bombings in Paris and around the world.
- iii) Secretary Faraci noted that an organization called CTMA (Community Theatre Management Association) is compiling lists of upcoming theater performances in the Central Connecticut and Massachusetts area. She will follow up to find out if Middletown area theater groups can be included.
- iv) Middletown High School is presenting “Fairy Tale Courtroom” this weekend. It has been very well-received by groups of young schoolchildren.

c) Other – nothing to report.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:52pm by Council Member Giuliano, seconded by Council Member Santangelo.

The next MCA regular monthly meeting is Wednesday, Dec 16, 2015 in Room B19, Municipal Building, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Faraci, Secretary