

MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Minutes of January 27, 2010

Present

Joyce Kirkpatrick
Rob Resnikoff
Joyce Arafah
Frank Kuan
Jennifer Hawkins Lecce
Bob Santangelo
Lee Godburn
Charlotte McCoid
Kisha Michael
Michele Lau
David Bauer
Patricia Evans

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Richard Kamins

Also Attending

Stephan Allison, Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joyce Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Room 208, in Middletown, CT.

PUBLIC SESSION

None held.

MINUTES OF December 16, 2009

Resnikoff made a motion to accept the minutes of December 16, 2009, and Godburn seconded this. Motion carried. Evans abstained. Arafah requested a correction to two items; she explained that the Nutcracker wants to come to Middletown in the future; and the discussion at the beginning should read, Middletown-“area” residents.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Kirkpatrick sends greetings for the New Year and welcomed Patricia Evans back to the Commission meetings after her prolonged absence. She believes that we are off to a good start with the Grants Policy and looks forward to working on one primary goal at the beginning of each meeting until goal is achieved. Kirkpatrick presented three suggested ideas of suggestion: reviving the effort to establish the Percent for Art Program, secondly proposing the MCA provide office space for art groups to share and third, to start a series of visiting artists to come to meetings and explain their preparation for the creative endeavors to help us get to know the artists in town. Kirkpatrick opens the floor for conversation. Discussion was held.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Budget Report (Financial Report Update)

No questions to Coordinator. Kirkpatrick notes that the Shenker Fund is listed in packets distributed and explains that it is a fund established by the will of Dr. Shenker that is managed by the finance department of the city and states that, in addition to the original gift, the fund's interest is accruing to MCA account.

b) Staff Report/Program Update Arts Stakeholders Group

Allison reports his last discussion with Bill Oliver, explaining that it has been six years since the project began and is not completed. Allison shared with Oliver an example of a New Haven arts council website and was given approval by Oliver to speak to them in order to move forward with the project.

Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce)

Allison reports that the council met last Thursday and the meeting was about Facebook. He reported that it was well attended and states that the next meeting will be about Twitter.

Allison references a handout previously given to commissioners in regards to how a city uses the arts to promote its geographic assets. He uses the example of the city of Philadelphia's "Art in the Open". He was advised through email by Godburn to inform the Mayor, Common Council and the Chamber of Commerce of its relevance to the Middletown area of river usage and access. Allison read from a response letter from the Mayor dated January 16th of his awareness and attention to the idea.

c) Grants Procedure

Kirkpatrick introduces old business not included in the agenda regarding the Grants Procedures. She believes that the procedure of deciding the amount grants coming in needs to be refined. Resnikoff began the discussion by pointing out that with the amount of applicants there will be a lot of panels and suggests that Tier1 applicants come to a commission meeting to make their presentations. He believes that it might make the procedures a more convenient process. He also suggests having a grants panel meeting separately from a commission meeting. Allison notes, without knowing how much money will be used in Tier1, it would be fair to everyone if all applicants were heard at the same time from all tiers, and to make the decision after hearing from them, regardless of their size. Discussion was held. Kirkpatrick questions how many applicants are expected. Allison reports six to eight in Tier1 totaling 48k without considering Tier 2 and 3. Allison states that new applicants have responded to the advertising and are applying for funding. Bauer adds that he would feel more comfortable if there was some rough idea of how much funds were reserved for specific tiers and believes that it might offer some clarity to the different panels if they knew what was the budgeted amount to consider. Discussion was held.

**Resnikoff made a motion that our funding policy for this year involve three or four person panels being presented to by the Tier 2 and Tier 3 organizations and individuals; and that those applying for Tier 1 grants present to the entire commission; and that after all of the presentations have been made the entire commission meet to decide how to distribute the entire funding budget. Evans seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kirkpatrick sets dates for Grants Panel being: Tier1, February 24, Tier2, February 22 and Tier 3 February 23 2010. Allison states that he will reserve a room at either the Russell Library or the community room located in the Police Department. Allison states he will send out an email to coordinate attendance for each panel.

c) Public Art Benches

Michael requests forming a subcommittee for the project to gain support to move forward with the idea.

d) Conflict of Interest Statements

Kirkpatrick asks commissioner to submit their forms.

e) Other (including reorganization and Coordinator Position, Peer Advisor Use)

Allison reports that he is aware of a reorganization meeting forming and the topic has been returned for discussion.

Committee Reports

a) Public Art Committee

Allison reports that the pieces are to be delivered this week and a plaque is needed. Kirkpatrick reports that she has spoken to artist Robin Price and states that Price is interested in creating a piece of artwork for Middletown's art collection.

b) Planning & Projects Committee

Grants Awareness Project

Godburn states inactivity and the item will be removed from the agenda.

Workshop Collaboration

Godburn states we will stay involved in MCF and Creative Juice and believes that it is doing well and no longer needs to be an agenda item.

Godburn suggests Michael's Bench project be added to Planning and Projects Committee. All agree.

Arts Advocacy Day Awards

Godburn states that Marco Gaylord is not available to attend on the date scheduled. Godburn suggests the proclamation be read and put in at common council to be represented. He suggests having the event at First and Last Tavern, serving pizza and soda to give thanks. Godburn requests a budget to cover the expenses for the event.

**Kuan made a motion that we allocate up to two hundred dollars from the checking account for the Arts Advocacy Awards Day. Evans seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Allison questions if a final determination was made regarding funds going to awardees. Kirkpatrick requests that this should be determined.

**Resnikoff made a motion that awards to the Advocacy Day Award winners not include cash for this year. Arafah seconded. Motion carried (Voting in favor: Resnikoff, Arafah, Kuan, Godburn, Michael and Evans, and Kirkpatrick. Voting against: McCoid and Lecce; Abstentions: 0).

c) Other (Publicity, Kids Arts, Nominating and Archive Committee)

Kids Arts

Allison reports three proposals received; two being existing organizations Oddfellows and NEAR; the third being an individual (and not able to apply as such). He suggested that the individual make her project work without city funding. Allison has suggested her request to be added to the budget because he believes there is a need for projects like this in the community for the kids in the summer. He explains the project involves writing, movement, visual art, drumming and choreography.

Allison reports that Kids Arts registration packet is posted online and that Kids Arts will be hosted at Macdonough School. He states that Academic Enrichment of the Middletown Public Schools is expanding to all of the schools, and states that the program at Macdonough fits in with the fee structure and brings in neighborhood kids. Green St. will be offering full day subsidiary science and art program and will be taking kids from the academic enrichment program to provide a full day of care.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Grants Panel Selection

Kirkpatrick reports that it is completed. Allison request determination for begins dates for categories two and three and needs to know the earliest start dates for each. Discussion was held and dates were confirmed – February 22, 23 and 24, 2010.

b) 2010-2011 MCA Budget

Kirkpatrick observes that the budget is status quo. Allison explains additions and notes of the 25-cent increase in minimum wage and needs to reflect this change in counselor pay for Kids Arts, and adds that training has increased the cost.

**McCoid made a motion that the budget be passed as presented. Seconded by Kuan. Motion carried unanimously. Bauer abstained.

c) Other

General discussion on current events, no motions made, no further new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General announcements made. Meeting adjourned 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Michael
Secretary