

## **MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS**

Minutes of May 26, 2010

### **Present**

Barbara Arafeh  
David Bauer  
Fran Ganguli  
Lee Godburn  
Richard Kamins (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Frank Kuan  
Michelle Lau (Youth-in-Government)  
Jennifer Lecce  
Kisha Michael  
Rob Resnikoff

### **Absent**

Patricia Evans  
Bob Santangelo  
Stephan Allison (staff)

### **Also Attending**

Robin Price, Artist

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Room 208, in Middletown, CT.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Robin Price presented her letterpress and colored pencil artwork containing poetry of Middletown poet Susan Allison. This piece is being presented for recommendation as art to be purchased by the city and added to the public art collection.

### **MINUTES OF April 28, 2010**

Fran Ganguli made a motion to accept the minutes of April 28, 2010, and Rob Resnikoff seconded this. Motioned carried unanimously. Chair Kirkpatrick asked for clarification on page 3, New Business, section 5. She asks that "in the future" be added to make clear of when the applications for Category 2 and 3 will be given to all commissioners.

### **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Kirkpatrick shared with Commissioners highlights of several events she attended this past week including the performances of "Oreste" and "Elijah", and viewed the art show of Robin Price at Wesleyan. In addition, she attended the Alsop House dedication to the National Historic Trust Register and attended a seminar with CCCT on marketing. Chair Kirkpatrick plans to share with the group by email information received on the importance of community supporting the arts and the importance of not cutting back on programming.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Budget Report**

Reviewed and accepted as presented.

#### **Review Grants Policy, Consider Recommendations for Next Year, Guidelines for Sponsoring Agency**

Kirkpatrick began the discussion by referencing questions in last month's agenda regarding if the sponsoring agency must be a 501(c)3. She asks the group to recall the questions surrounding the issue for discussion. Questions surrounding are: how it is to be structured, what paperwork

should be required and what its function are of concern. Kuan, Lecce, Godburn, Bauer, Arafah and Resnikoff add their input. Discussion was held. Resnikoff believes that sponsoring organizations should have full knowledge of who they are supporting and that our judgment should be informed. Lecce recommends the letter of support should be mailed separately from the application. Chair suggested to forward these notes to the grants committee for recommendations at the June meeting. Discussion was held.

Chair Kirkpatrick began discussion with the next topic regarding Category 2 (suggestion to lower the ceiling limit to \$5k) and Category 3 (upper limit to \$1500). Resnikoff states that no decision or votes were made about changing the limits of Categories 2 and 3. Discussion was held. Kirkpatrick suggests that this topic can be discussed in the next few meetings and requests that the committee meets to discuss this topic.

### **Funding Arts Advocacy Day Awards**

Chair Kirkpatrick suggest this item to be postponed until next meeting.

### **2010-2011 Budget Update**

Reviewed and accepted as presented.

### **Staff Report/Program Update**

Reviewed and accepted as presented by Allison's prepared review enclosed.

#### **i) Arts Stakeholders Group**

Reviewed and accepted as presented by Allison's prepared review enclosed.

#### **ii) Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce)**

Reviewed and accepted as presented by Allison's prepared review enclosed.

### **Other**

No Report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Art Committee**

Chair Kirkpatrick comments on how wonderful it is to see Robin Price's artwork come full circle. And asks the group to leave Susan Allison's poetry addition to the piece as a surprise for her return. Godburn comments that he believes it was very helpful to have the artist attend the meeting and explain the piece of artwork to the Commission. And further adds that it would be helpful in the future to have more artists attend Commission meetings. Discussion was held.

\*Resnikoff made a motion to approve \$1,000 to purchase Robin Price's print for the city's Art Collection. Arafah seconded this. Motion carried. Bauer abstained. Discussion was held.

Chair Kirkpatrick ask the group of any interested Commissioners to begin working on creating a brochure for the commission about the commission. Michael, Lecce and Arafah expressed their interest in helping with this project. Godburn made a suggestion to consider inviting outside sources to sub committees. He suggested inviting Stacey Dyer of Triple Frog for input and

advice. Chair Kirkpatrick states that she will contact Allison to discuss her invitation to a future Commission meeting. Discussion was held.

Chair Kirkpatrick reports on the MCAAA update stating that she has spoken to Commissioner McCoid discussing the opening of the senior art show on Thursday, May 27, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. She states an email invitation was sent to all commissioners and extends a further invitation. Discussion was held.

Godburn informs the group of a way of making art more accessible in Middletown. He suggests creating a scavenger hunt experience program for art to be put in different areas in Middletown. This might engage Middletown's youth to become aware of art in the city. He stated that there are a few legal problems needed to overcome with having city art outside of city hall. Chair Kirkpatrick suggest we revisit and rethink this idea and discuss in future meetings.

### **Planning & Projects Committee**

Godburn reports that he has spoken with artist Randy Gillman of the West Hartford Cow Parade and wants to invite him to a future commission meeting to speak about his experience. Bauer adds his suggestion to get connected with other committees in the municipality that have similar interests. He recommends speaking with the Planning and Projects committee as well as the police department to research any conflicts of future planning. Discussion was held.

### **Other Committees**

Kamins reports that he has spoken to Allison in regards to Kids Arts publicity and is seeking more coverage to advertise. He states that enrollment is low at this time and further explains that this impact is a result of more programs being offered through school summer programs. Suggestions brought were distributing flyers throughout the schools and maybe get a possible feature story written about Kids Arts and the Children's Circus. Godburn revisits the idea of having Kids Arts and the Circus be together and run by Oddfellows. He further explains the saving benefits of Oddfellows being directly funded by the city and asks this topic be revisited for future discussion. Discussion was held.

Chair Kirkpatrick states that she will research her records for the nominating committee and return with more information on the topic.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No Report

#### **Other**

No Report

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **The Greater Middletown Chorale**

Arafeh reports that the Chorale's latest performance was stupendous and well attended by audiences from distances outside of Middletown.

#### **Other**

Arafeh shares with the group events she attended in the past month. Arafeh reports on the latest common council meeting and adds that she spoke on behalf of the arts. Also, Arafeh reports of the great opportunity to be on the radio and shares that she was on the air with Richard Kamins.

Finally, she reports that she attended a performance at the Goodspeed Opera House and found that it was only two thirds full. She also attended the CT Opera Competition and found that the vice president of the CT Opera was a Middletown resident and believes that she might be helpful to the city's opera initiative. She attended IDS to attend the performance of "Alice in Wonderland" with kids from Middletown in the performance. She attended a program about Henry Clay Work held at the Russell Library. Arafah reports on a grants seminar she attended and informed the group of the purchased database available at the Middletown Russell Library. And finally, she adds that Vivian Montgomery, harpsichordist is looking for a smaller venue and plays a new program across the country.

Kirkpatrick announces and distributes flyers for the Summer Serenade Concert to benefit the Greater Middletown Chorale with performances to be held at the Wadsworth Mansion.

Resnikoff announces the performance of "Private Eyes", June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Resnikoff made a motion to adjourn; Godburn seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting concluded at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kisha Michael