

## **Middletown Commission on the Arts**

Minutes of June 23, 2010

### **Present**

Barbara Arafteh (arrived at 7:22 p.m.)  
David Bauer  
Fran Ganguli  
Lee Godburn  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Frank Kuan  
Robert Resnikoff

### **Absent**

Patricia Evans  
Richard Kamins  
Michelle Lau (Youth-in-Government)  
Jennifer Lecce  
Charlotte McCoid  
Kisha Michael  
Bob Santangelo

### **Also Present**

Stephan Allison (staff)

### **Call to order**

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order once a quorum was reached by the arrival of Commissioner Arafteh at 7:22 p.m. at the Municipal building, Room 208, in Middletown, CT.

### **Public session**

As there were no members of the public present there was no public session.

### **Minutes of May 26, 2010**

Commissioner Resnikoff made a motion to accept the minutes of May 26, 2010 as written, Commissioner Ganguli seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Remarks from the Chair**

Commission Chair Kirkpatrick commented on the benefit that was recently held at Oddfellows and how successful it was. She also mentioned in a conversation with friends visiting from out of state they were impressed with Middletown's art scene, saying that it must be an enlightened community.

### **Old business**

#### **Budget report**

A budget report was not available at this meeting due to the Arts Office's time constraints. The end of the fiscal year report will be available in July and the Commission will discuss the budget at that time.

### **Review grants policy, consider recommendations for next year, guidelines for sponsoring agencies**

The discussion from the meeting of May 26, 2010 continued with the addition of new language for letters of support as proposed by the Funding Policy Committee (see attachment to minutes). The new language seemed to meet with the Commissioners' approval but due to the absence of a fair number of Commissioners a motion was made by David Bauer and seconded by Frank Kuan to postpone voting on this until the next scheduled meeting. That passed unanimously. It was also discussed that any letters of support should be mailed directly from the supporting agency to the MCA office separate from the applicant's application.

### **Funding Arts Advocacy Day awards**

Bauer asked what the community's arts benefit was to give a monetary award to reward recipients. Chair Kirkpatrick answered that in the past recipients have used the money to either strengthen their group(s) or to offer community outreach. All direct benefits to the arts community. It was decided that currently the

Commission has the flexibility to choose whether or not to make a monetary award. The Commission decided to make that decision closer to the time of the Advocacy Awards next March.

### **2010-2011 Budget update**

To be presented in July.

### **Staff report/program update**

#### **1) Arts Stakeholders Group**

The group is currently waiting to review/comment on the web page design by O'Donnell & Co of New Haven

#### **2) Creative Juice**

Group met and discussed books of interest. The group is off for the summer.

#### **Other**

The Commissioners were asked to please review the attachments in our meeting packet concerning **Commission Protocol** and from the City code 44-1, **Approval of bills for Payment**.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Public Art Committee**

Since our last meeting the Commission on the Arts Office has not received any information on the MCAAA Award. Any monetary award from MCA must be processed by Friday 6/25 to fall within this fiscal year.

#### **Planning and projects**

The artist, Randy Gilman, who was suggested at the May meeting to come speak to the MCA concerning the bench project, was contacted and a tentative date to appear for the July meeting exists. This will be confirmed through the Chair and the Arts Office closer to that date.

#### **Nominating**

The Nominating Committee, through the Chair, presented the slate of officers nominated for 2010-2011. They are: Joyce Kirkpatrick- Chair, Robert Resnikoff- Vice Chair, Jennifer Lecce- Secretary.

The Nominating Committee has also announced they are searching for two new board members to replace those leaving. Several names are being considered but the Committee is still accepting suggestions until the end of the week.

The Commissioners who will be leaving are Frank Kuan and Kisha Michael.

#### **Other Committees**

There were no other Committee reports.

### **New Business**

A discussion commenced in regards to the Student in Government Program. It is unanimous that all believe it a successful and worthwhile program and we are happy that it receives strong support from other city departments, City Council and the Mayor's Office.

Commissioner Godburn asked Chair Kirkpatrick if she would please notify Melissa Robinson, advisor for the Youth in Government program, and tell her of our interest to welcome more than one student representative to our Commission.

Chair Kirkpatrick notes the letter of resignation from Commissioner Michael and will pass it on to the Town Clerk. She also thanks Commissioner Michael for the time, enthusiasm and effort she shared with the Commission, she will be missed by all.

The MCA will once again participate in the Open Air Market happening on August 22, 2010 on the grounds of the Wadsworth Mansion. It was suggested that we try to host the face painter or similar stimulant at our booth to encourage awareness. On the suggestion of Commissioner Godburn, Stephan will also be encouraging other arts groups to participate in a ticket give away from our booth to help establish a mailing list of interested community members and to promote audience participation.

**Other**

Grant recipient, Tony Donovan, has notified the commission he is not yet finished with his project but is progressing well with it and we are invited to see his progress by going online to [nesopgamercenterblog.com](http://nesopgamercenterblog.com).

**Announcements**

Chair Kirkpatrick attended a performance at “the Kate” where she saw Commissioner Resnikoff perform and congratulated him on his performance.

Commissioner Arafah shared a myriad of events she attended and reported on them in detail, Kirkpatrick thanked her for representing Middletown and attending so many events in the name of the MCA .

Several Commissioners commented on the successfulness of A.M.E. Zion’s Celebrate Me Cultural Day.

Commissioner Kuan reminded all of the Middletown Chorale’s Benefit at the Wadsworth on Friday June 25, 6p.m.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Resnikoff made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Commissioner Kuan. The motion carried unanimously, the meeting concluded at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Godburn