



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 7:00 pm

Via WebEx

Middletown, CT

Present:

Cassandra Day, Chair
Charlotte McCoid, Vice Chair
Barbara Arafeh
John Basinger
David Bauer
Franca Biales
Julia Faraci
Ed Ford, Council Member
Lee Godburn
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Crystal Laffan
Ed McKeon, Council Member
Pamela Steele, Secretary
Also present:
Kisha Michael, Coordinator

- 1) Call to Order 7:09 pm
- 2) Public Session: none
- 3) Minutes
 - a) February 26, 2020 – Motion to approve by Ed Ford Jr, seconded by Julia Faraci, approved unanimously.
 - 4) Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve by Ed Ford Jr, seconded by Lee Godburn, approved unanimously.
- 5) Remarks from the Chair – Day made comments at the opening questioning if and how the MCA/city is, or could potentially be, helping Middletown arts organizations and artists floundering during the coronavirus pandemic financially - and in other ways.
- 6) Old Business
 - a) Budget Report – No change in budget, request submitted is reflecting minimum wage increase to \$11.00.
 - b) Program Update
 - i) Arts Coordinator (AC) is staying connected with Americans for the Arts and Connecticut Office of the Arts and sharing these resources with local artists via CiviSend and FB posts. City Hall is closed to the public and the AC is working from home remotely. Office hours are as usual. Employees must wear masks while in building.
 - ii) Grants – POS and PSG grants were approved at last council meeting. PSG grants are affected by COVID-19 with postponements and cancellations occurring globally. CTY may not happen this summer because Wesleyan is not having on campus summer programs. Lisa Foss, Program Coordinator of CCY will follow up with AC on their decisions in early May. It was discussed that providing reassurance to those grantees is necessary. AC will draft a narrative for the upcoming grants program scheduled for the fall for review at next meeting.



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- iii) Kids Art – Enrollment is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, registration is still open.
 - iv) Make Music Day – June 21st – Will be virtual due to covid19 social distancing regulations.
- 7) Committee Reports
- a) Executive Committee – No report
 - b) Public Art Committee – No report
 - c) Nominating Committee – No report
 - d) Planning and Projects
 - i) Arts Advocacy Awards ceremony cancelled, MCAAA Awards probably won't happen. Lee will follow up with Art Department at MHS.
 - e) Music Committee – No communication from Historical Society.
 - f) Poet Laureate Committee
 - i) Susan D. Allison Fund – Stephan submitted a suggestion that maybe October 30 could be a date to release the annual honorarium to the city's current laureate each year. More will be discussed and followed up.
- 8) New Business
- a) Support & Resources - COVID-19 discussion ensued on how the MCA can help our artistic citizens. It was suggested that artists should go to Middlesex Chamber for business assistance. Promoting the Arts – Look at maybe a YouTube channel – need a subcommittee.
 - b) Summer Public Events
 - i) Fireworks Festival – postponed until September. Labor Day possible.
 - ii) Other summer events – Pride event postponed and rescheduled for August 29th.
- 9) Announcements
- i) Greater Middletown Chorale – rehearsals on Zoom
 - ii) Looking for musicians to call or sing to someone homebound
- 10) Adjournment – 8:36 pm. Motion by Lee Godburn, 2nd by Franca Biales, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Steele, Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk,
Mayor Florsheim