



Minutes of the Meeting

July 27, 2022

Room 208, Municipal Bldg. Middletown, CT

Hybrid Meeting

In attendance

Pam Steele, Chair
David Wolfram
Barbara Arafeh
Domenique Thornton
Barbara Arafeh
Lee Godburn
Charlotte McCoid
Kate Ten Eyck
Julie Faraci
Joyce Kirkpatrick (virtually)
Ed McKeon, Common Council (virtually)

Also in attendance

Kisha Michael
(Arts Coordinator)

Absent

Cheryl Hale (Poet Laureate)
Vacant (Common Council)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:07 PM

2. Public Session: None

3. Approval of Minutes: June 22, 2022 Meeting

- Motion made by Godburn and seconded by McCoid Correction of spelling Thomas Pandolfe; correction that Julie Faraci was present. Minutes pass with corrections unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda:

- Motion made by Godburn and seconded by McCoid to approve agenda. No discussion; passes unanimously.

5. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair announced that she went to the second Summer Sounds concert with Jay Hoggard and it was nicely attended. It was good to bring people closer to the river front where there is more shade on the front lawn and it is closer to downtown and the riverfront. She recently visited Chicago with a pavilion like a theater and which also had outside seating with a good sound system. Middletown is looking for a new venue and paying more attention to an outside venue. The Chair told the Mayor that one member of the commission as well as the arts coordinator should be included in the conversation to choose the new venue. We want to make sure the MCA is still involved in the determination of a music venue in the riverfront development to which he seemed agreeable.

6. Old Business –

A. Staff Report



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Michael asked for a date on the calendar for the Grants Committee to meet to review grant process guidelines. There will be a new application online. Grant subcommittee meeting slated for Tuesday, Aug. 9 at 2 PM.

Michal also announced tomorrow's Summer Sounds Concert is Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem are scheduled to play in front of city hall but the rain location is South Church.

Further announcements: the Circus is next Friday at 5 PM

The Arts Coordinator Job description was approved with increased job duties for an upgrade from a salary grade 11 to a grade 12, pending council approval. Assistant arts coordinator was also approved and will be posted in the fall at grade 9.

The Open Air Market will be held at the Wadsworth Mansion scheduled August 28 and will require the commissions to assist with the Open air market but Michael not be able to attend.

Publicity: the Circus has been published twice in the news twice once on and also on "Where Art Thou"

National Night Out is publicized next Tuesday, Aug. 2 shutting down a portion of Main Street.

August meeting is general cancelled.

B. Committee reports

Planning and Projects Godburn updated on the MCAAA (Middletown Commission on the Arts Annual Arts Awards). We are still waiting for the second piece of art to be delivered. MCA expedited the awards this year. Michael said the awards were signed and the checks were mailed today. Godburn planned to have the checks and collect the art on the day of the award ceremony. Even though many students use their art for college admissions, now they are using copies and prints today so it should not be an issue.

Public Arts

Ten Eyck reported that Faraci and Kirkpatrick met to discuss what was going on. Godburn added details that Jim Misenti from Middletown Adult Ed just returned and had the front window locked up. The window is dark but we are going with a bright theme and illuminating but not competing with the television screens. Ten Eyck asked for suggestions. We are working on the phrase to convey "A Day without Art is a day without Sunshine" or should it be "What's happening" and a slide show. The 50th Anniversary will also be advertised at the same time. McCoid suggested there are two windows and we can do something else in the second one. Godburn suggested having a smaller TV screen with a camera mounted on back so that anyone looking in the window screen with a camera mounted on back so that anyone looking in the window will see themselves and it will be interactive with a slogan. Sandra from the DBD was supportive. Something simple and technical can be fascinating and will encourage people to stop and read. The Chair suggested we think about it for a day or two with suggestions about what it



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should say. McCoid suggested there may be a need for an awning but the BOE does not own the building.

McCoid announced that the subcommittee was looking at purchasing some art work from a Middletown artist who had drawn art in a variety of mediums. Some examples were distributed among the commission members. Kimberly Dragone was the artist. She is associated with the Church of the Holy Trinity and has a multitude of styles.

b. Committee Reports

Music Sub-committee

Arafeh reported on a series of concerts in Middletown and at the Mansion and at Buttonwood Tree.

Faraci asked about the Poet Laureate and Godburn answered that normally we commission the Poet Laureate in October. We will have to find one and he has approached multiple poets in CT and a Poet Laureate Group asking them to spread the word that we are looking for a poet laureate who is a Middletown resident or who works here. The word is being disbursed among their groups.

c. Slate of Officers

The Chair announced that the commission needed to vote on the slate. Godburn will be the Chair, Steele will be the Vice Chari and Thornton will be the secretary. The Chair thanked the nominating committee for their work. There were no other nominations from the floor.

- Motion made by Arafeh to accept the slate. McCoid seconded the motion. No discussion. Passes unanimously.

7. 50th Anniversary

The Chair reminded that the 50th Anniversary celebration will be held on the last concert date in the summer. No commission meeting in August and an email can go out to alert members to the festivities that evening which will be up to the new Chair Godburn. The performers have not been scheduled yet. MCA will provide sheet cake and refreshments.

8. New Business:

a. MCA commissioner recommendations. The Chair and Michael met with Mayor and gave him Anthony Pandolfe's name but Kerry Kincy cannot now be considered because she currently resides in Portland. The Commission discusses expectations for new members including student members for the future including a written description of expectations.

b. MCAAAA Awardee Payment Process - Michael reiterated that the process should be cleaned up up when it is time to deliver awards. Michael recommends that a MCA commissioner should be at the



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podium when making awards. However, the award ceremony is held during the day in May before graduation at the high school making it difficult for commissioners to attend. The Chair also recommends that the commissioners be more active in their participation in various activities.

9. Announcements

Michael announces a concert tomorrow and if it is raining it will be at South Church in the sanctuary.

Arafeh remembers four members of the Middletown Middletuners who have passed away.

Eric Meisner, David Dunklee, Joseph Rafala and Judy Hamilton

Chair reminds everyone that there is no regular MCA meeting in August.

10. Adjournment

- Motion made by Godburn seconded by Ten Eyck to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Domenique Thornton
Secretary