



Minutes of the Meeting

September 22, 2021

Room 208, Municipal Bldg. Middletown, CT

Hybrid Meeting

In attendance

Pam Steele
Lee Godburn
Barbara Arafeh
Julia Faraci (via Webex, arr 7:05)
Kate Ten Eyck
Charlotte McCoid
Domenique Thornton (via Webex, arr 7:15)
Joyce Kirkpatrick

Also in attendance

Kisha Michael
(Arts Coordinator)

Absent

David Bauer
David Wolfram
Ed Ford (Common Council)
Ed McKeon (Common Council)
Cheryl Hale (Poet Laureate)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Session: Christopher Forte presented ideas for LGBTQIA arts activities to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the MCA celebration next year. The general idea of the LGBTQIA group was to invite the public to come to City Hall in the evening during May and June to see artistic creations of their groups. He expressed that the Pride group does a lot of collaborating and listed other organizations with which his group could collaborate. Support was expressed for the idea but a request was made that more Middletown based groups be featured. Christopher noted that their group includes all artists who identify as LGBTQIA.

*Motion made by Commissioner Godburn and seconded by Commissioner McCoid to work with all LGBTQIA groups on this event passed unanimously .

*Motion made by Commissioner Godburn and seconded by Commissioner McCoid that Michael be a liaison with the Middletown Pride group on this event passed unanimously .

3. Approval of Minutes - September 22, 2021 Meeting

* Motion made by Commissioner Godburn and seconded Commissioner McCoid to approve minutes. No discussion, passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

*Motion made by Commissioner Godburn and seconded Commissioner Kirkpatrick to approve the agenda as written. No discussion, passed unanimously.

5. Remarks from the Chair

It is time to get to work on the MCA 50th Anniversary plans with the celebration extending from January to December 2022 incorporating at least 50 events. Chair noted Martin Luther King Birthday observance and the more projects the better. This is the time for Arts in Middletown to shine!



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6. Old Business

David Bauer has resigned MCA leaving two (2) slots open on MCA membership.

David Wolfram was placed on the Grants Review Sub-committee

a. Staff Report

Michael reported that Planning & Projects sub-committee met and Commissioner Godburn reviewed numerous creative and wonderful arts projects in anticipation of meeting the commission's goal of 50 arts events during the 50th anniversary year.

Michael presented the Amistad Poster with the event activities to the committee and announced that a buffet dinner at Sicily Restaurant will take place on the preceding evening from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. All commissioners were invited to the buffet and to the event itself which was set for 11 AM to 5 PM Saturday Oct. 2 with remarks and ceremony from 11 AM to Noon. Tours of the Amistad would be available shortly after in a timed ticket tour of 15 minutes each for 40 people at a time to be able to board the replica of the famous vessel Amistad and acknowledge and celebrate the 1839 Mende uprising aboard and their eventual freedom. Mayor Florsheim and Chamber President Larry McHugh will make remarks of welcome. Traditional African music and dance set for Saturday to include drumming.

- Motion made by Commissioner Kirkpatrick and seconded by Commissioner Godburn that the MCA sponsor the Amistad visit in the amount of \$500 to help pay bills and make payable to the Middlesex County Historical Society as the fiduciary.

Michael read a letter of thanks from Wendy Black-Nasta, Artists for World Peace, and showed the poster created from the combined children's artwork from the Buckets for Love project.

Michael noted that one grant applicant pulled their application due to the City's matching funds requirement. Commissioners briefly discussed the City required a matching fund four years ago as a requirement for an MCA grant. Michael reviewed the current grant applications. (A copy of the FY22 PSG Arts Supports Services Grants for deadline 9/15/2021 is attached).

Michael read a letter from Judge Joseph Milardo donating a picture of City Hall rendered by an unknown artist and donated to Judge Milardo years ago when he had his law office. After discussion, it was determined that a letter of thanks should be prepared by the Chair and sent to the donors with gratitude from the MCA for their gift.

b. Committee Reports

Planning & Projects



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Commissioner Godburn asked to send a thank you to Commissioner David Wolfram for the anniversary logo celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the MCA. All concurred approval that this should be done.

Music Committee

Commissioner Arafeh noted that Music Committee will meet in October date to be determined.

c. 50th Anniversary

Commissioner Godburn outlined many exciting events that the Planning & Projects Committee had in store for the 50th Anniversary. To date they have identified approximately 20 wonderful arts projects for next year. They intend to discuss the anniversary year activities more fully at their next monthly meeting. He expressed that they are looking for the entire community to participate. They plan to use the website "What's Your Art?" to reach out to the community for ideas. Brief discussion of the disconnection with Wesleyan Arts activities followed.

d. Youth initiatives are needed.

e. MCA Grants

i. Grant Report Discussion. The committee discussed the contours of the most successful grant application. It was generally agreed that the Oddfellows had the best template for a successful grant application and most applicants lack sufficient details of their projects. It was discussed whether Michael could use examples of successful applications to educate applicants on what they should have on their grants. The Chair commented that should not be up to the Arts Coordinator but rather it is the job of the MCA to give applicants constructive criticism because there is no better time to give criticism to them than when they are asking for grant funds. Commissioner McCoid noted that applicants have technical issues when filling out the form and the Coordinator should provide applicants with technical assistance.

ii. Grant Applications Received, Deadline 9-15-21 A copy of the FY22 PSG Arts Supports Services Grants for deadline 9/15/2021 is attached.

iii. Review of Panel Assignments and Interview Schedule

Committee discussion ensued that due to the number of grants the Grants Panel will need to meet on two nights with a composition of 3 panel members after October 5, 2021 with a meeting time after 5 PM

7. Announcements

Commissioner Arafeh announced that the Greater Middletown Concert Association has scheduled three concerts for the 2021-2022 season and one spring performance to be announced as follows:



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The Modernistics in “The Twenties Roar Again” will perform jazz songs, dancing & instrumental from the 1920’s at the Wadsworth Mansion on October 21, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Puccini’s “La Boheme” a live opera to be performed Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Middletown High School Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center at 7:30 PM.

La Chaconne Trio will perform a baroque music trio on period instruments Thursday, May12, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick announced that the Greater Middletown Chorale will have concert of Bach, Schubert, Voth and Mozart on Sunday, November 14, 2021 and;

On November 1, 2021, Composer Ellen Gilson Voth will give a public Zoom talk about her new composition illumining the responses to the Covid Pandemic that will premiere at the concert.

On Saturday September 18, 2021 there was an exciting traditional Indian dance recital at the Church of the Holy Trinity that was supported by an MCA arts grant. They had great costumes with wonderful dancers but unfortunately it did begin to rain and the performance had to go inside. About 30 onlookers watched – mostly parents.

Commissioner Faraci announced that the CT Office of the Arts honored Kerry Kincy and Steve Allison at a great event at Infinity Hall Hartford in September.

Chair Pam Steele announced she would be going to Florida.

Commissioners remembered with sorrow the passing of Richard Schafrick.

The Commission noted with sorrow the passing of Bill Wasch.

Commissioner McCoid noted that the new charter revision hopes to limit terms on boards and commissions.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Godburn moved to adjourn and Commissioner McCoid seconded, Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Domenique Thornton
Secretary

Att: Grant Applications