



Minutes of the Meeting

December 15, 2021

Room 208, Municipal Bldg. Middletown, CT

Hybrid Meeting

In attendance

Pam Steele
Julia Faraci
David Wolfram
Lee Godburn
Kate Ten Eyck
Domenique Thornton
Ed McKeon (Common Council)

Also in attendance

Kisha Michael
(Arts Coordinator)

Absent

Barbara Arafah
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Charlotte McCoid
Ed Ford (Common Council)
Cheryl Hale (Poet Laureate)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM due to technical difficulties

2. No Public Session:

3. Approval of Minutes:

November 17, 2021 Meeting

* Motion made by Godburn and seconded by Ten Eyck to approve minutes. Godburn abstained. No discussion, passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda:

* Motion made by Wolfram and seconded by Ten Eyck to approve the agenda as written. No discussion, passed unanimously.

5. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair began with a brief advisement reminding the commission that the public session was a time for the commission to listen to the public and not make remarks or engage in comments or questions while in public session. The chair further commented that this was where the commission got in trouble over the last few months and she wanted to take responsibility and remind the commission of the proper protocol during public session.

6. Old Business:

A. Michael announced the Music Subcommittee recommended Michael Arafah for Music Ambassador for this year’s 2022 honoree to the Mayor. The date set for the proclamation to be presented to him by the Mayor is January 11, 2022 in City Hall at 4 PM for family and friends.

Michael also discussed MCA Brochure as revised was attached to the agenda. Changes were made to make the cover pop. Font has been made larger to be more readable. WHATS YOUR ART added in caps made larger and in bold. Michael commented on the benefits of continuing to include businesses who are also art presenters and galleries. Commission noted changes with approval of minor edits.



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B. Committee Reports

Public Arts:

Ten Eyck reported that the Public Arts Subcommittee took a walk down Main Street with Jen Alexander to see the potential of using store fronts. Some were clearly off line and not within our reach for various reasons such as where Rite Aid was there was no way due to the ownership of the building is not cooperating or communicating with the downtown district. They are looking at the window which is currently Middletown Adult Ed (MAE). It is a shallow window but well located on Main St. McCoid communicated with MAE and it was determined we can use that as a display window for the whole year. The subcommittee also discussed large scale mural projects to be continued at a later time. Ten Eyck noted it was a productive discussion but there were not that many empty windows available and businesses are doing well but they will take another walk to determine sites for large scale murals. Chair commented that the building owner of Vinny's Jump & Jive plans improvements in the near future. Chair asked the public art subcommittee to consider not only Main Street but also side streets. Chair also noted that the lease for Rite Aid has run and there will be activity in that building in the near future.

Godburn added the McCoid mentioned the planned use of the Risely bench as well as something to present a video on all events. Godburn noted that interactives and videos are brilliant ideas to pull all the pieces together. Chair mentioned that Dominic who owns four (4) buildings downtown also owns the video trucks to run events going on in Middletown and is willing to advertise MCA events. Discussion followed regarding the process of selecting public arts projects and getting approval from MCA as a whole. Chair recommended Public Arts focus on the readily available window, first.

C. 50th Anniversary

Godburn reports he spoke to many people and asked them to think about ideas in November. All were positive but will report back in second or third week of January. Chair requested that there be a kickoff in January. Godburn reported that press releases are scheduled to come out in January and could include such things as a snow man contest. He also mentioned artists from Kid City may be available to do a lighted sculpture for a one day or one day a week project with lights and chicken wire. With no railings at Harbor Park currently, Spear Park or the front lawn on City Hall may be better options. Chair requested Godburn speak to them and get back to her before he moves forward.

Godburn sent a letter to the new Chief of Police via email to MPD Community Relations to ask them to join in projects with MCA. Godburn noted a list of various activities that are planned for the 50th Anniversary going forward (attached in supporting documents) to recognize Middletown's commitment to the arts for the last 50 years and to set the stage for a bigger and more encompassing program in the arts beginning with What's Your Art which we hope will open a dialogue to all who have become proficient in their skills. The goal is "50 for 50" or 50 projects for the 50th anniversary year. MPD and PAL would like to include arts in the 50th anniversary year. MPD seems poised to join MCA in its efforts to



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do "50 for 50". Godburn contacted many individuals in town about potential projects which were discussed for inclusion going forward to be discussed with the executive committee.

7. New Business:

A. Changes for the grant guidelines moved to January meeting. Michael reported that the current age for youth grant is high school.

Michael reported that the grants ordinance was reviewed. Godburn has a note to add project completion dates to the ordinance. Discussion tabled until January meeting.

8. Announcements

Godburn announced that someone who was a famous composer passed away.

Chair asked that we all had a great holiday and make sure 2022 is a much better year for us and have a great holiday with our families.

9. Adjournment

* Motion made by Ten Eyck to adjourn and Wolfram seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Att: [VChairPlanningProjects50](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Domenique Thornton
Secretary