



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City
March 8, 2018

Members Present:

Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Lawanda Hinton, Richard Massie, Lauren Masterson Rodriguez, Marian Reed, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Winnie Sullivan, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Kay Watts

Unexcused Absence: Nicole Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Garrie Burr. Carol Jackson was introduced; she will be a new commissioner but has not been sworn in yet.

Minutes were approved on a motion by Kay Watts, seconded by Stephanie Schlaifer

Citizen Comments:

- Philip Michaels presented examples of his photographs of arches in U. City. (archesofUCity.com), which he is making available for future calendar art. His website is available for adoption by the Commission, if we like (\$25/yr.).
- Audrey Jones presented details of this year's Mannequins on the Loop exhibit, opening on Earth Day. This is the 10th year of the exhibit, and a \$1000 donation has been added for a UCHS senior planning to study art or fashion. Photos are requested for a future calendar. Marian Reed moved and Lawanda Hinton seconded approval/blessing of A&L for this event.
- Jenny Wendt shared that U. City will apply for a Bloomberg grant and she will return to us for collaboration, if the funds are awarded.
- Judy Prange (Olive Beautification Committee) presented information about the Committee's bus stop bench project. Seven artists will be chosen to paint six benches to be installed between Midland and 82nd Street. Kay moved, Marian seconded approval/blessing for this project

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Sullivan presented November 2017 through February 2018 financial summaries. 1) Funds are available for June Starlight concerts; next year's funds will be available for concerts beginning in July. 2) A RAC grant (\$10,000 match) full application has been submitted. 3) A form, including biographical questions, will be created that musicians will be required to submit before Starlight contracts are awarded.

Staff Liaison Report: No report in Ms. Euell-Taylor's absence. Leslie Eutz attended our meeting.

Council Liaison Report: Mr. Smotherson reported that there would be a study session next week on the RFP for Midland/Olive property. The house and sculptures will be removed from that property.

Committee Reports

- **Calendar Art** – Ms. Watts and Mr. Fehr met with Rod Milam and discussed the use of some of his portfolio for 2019. They will continue to follow up.
- **Finance** – Grant options are being considered, especially for Starlight and Movies in the Park. Specific ideas from Commissioners are welcome.
- **Literary** – 1) Raining Poetry Projects (MO poets) are being discussed with four public places designated: Commons, UCHS, library, loop market. 2) A Young Writer's award is being considered for high school-aged, short story submissions, to be awarded in October with collaboration with UCHS faculty

- **Marketing** -- Mary Adams (Chamber of Commerce) and President Burr are working on a catalog and map of art. The Commission will continue to publicize arts events to the public.
- **Movies in the Park**-- we will discuss movies for the summer; the December movie was sparsely attended, but enjoyed by the kids.
- **Public Art**-- Sam Fox faculty will collaborate with A&L on a new structure. They are flexible and discussions are in the planning phase. Levy family should be consulted as a courtesy.
- **Returning Artist** – The week and reception went well. Thanks to Commissioners who took part. UCHS wants to move the event to Homecoming week in October and possibilities are being discussed.
- **Starlight Concerts** -- The artists seem excited. There has been discussion about changes to the events-- new stage (purchased by City) has been proposed, raffle tickets, concessions, including high school students to help.

New Business: Creative Communities Alliance membership was discussed. It is an alliance of community arts organizations. Stephanie Schlaifer and Marian Reed moved approval to pay the \$50 fee to join.

Announcements: Upcoming events: African Film Festival at Washington University; UCHS All Strings concert

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.