

Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City
February 9, 2017

Members Present:

Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Felicia Hickman, Lawanda Hinton, Marian Reed, Barbara Santoro, Winnie Sullivan, Myra Vandersall, Kay Watts

Excused: Melcine Henderson, Richard Massey, Stephanie Schlaifer, Nicole Thomas, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo

Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by president, Garrie Burr.

Minutes from January 12, 2017. Kay Watts moved approval, Winnie Sullivan seconded, approved unanimously

Citizen Comments: None

Mannequins in the Loop: Audrey Jones presented a brief background of the project. This year's theme will be "Reuse, Recycle, Sustain" and proceeds will be donated to the UCHS art department. The kick-off will be 4/22/17, mannequins will be installed on 5/20/17, and a reception will be held at Create Space on 6/11/17. There is the possibility of following up with a display at Centennial Commons. Kay Watts moved approval of the project, Barbara Santoro seconded, it was approved unanimously. Ms. Jones will send information to be included on our social media.

Treasurer's Report: 1) Winnie Sullivan presented the January financial summary. We have received 2/3 of the RAC grant into the general fund. Next month, a separate account for Starlight Concerts will be shown. 2) Acting City Manager Charles Adams indicates that \$20,000 has been allocated for Starlight Concerts, but this transfer has not been finalized. 3) The RAC application has been submitted and will be explained in the Financial Committee report.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor has requested clarification of term endings and will send an updated roster when available.

Council Liaison Report: No report in Bwayne Smotherson's absence

Committee Reports

- Finance – Winnie indicated that the submitted RAC grant application for \$10,000 has been reviewed. There were two areas of concern: 1) the application requires two years of financial statements; our relationship to the City budget prevents a clear budget picture and so two year-end statements were submitted. 2) There were questions about diversity of our performers; we need to improve this area. The committee will explore a grant through Washington University or other (Carnegie Mellon, for example) for additional Sculpture Series funding. We will need to address themes and possibly include community engagement. A meeting with Noah to check his interest and availability to collaborate will be set.
- Marketing – Myra Vandersall and Garrie are posting and publicizing other events during the lull between A&L events. We're encouraged to "Like" the A&L Facebook page, and to copy text and post on our personal pages for increased coverage. Committees are encouraged to send info to Myra for posting.
- Policies & Procedures – Kay will call a meeting after Returning Artist events are completed.
- Literary – Winnie explained that feasibility for a "Writing Poetry" project is being considered. It would be appropriate, if possible, for National Poetry Month in April. A committee meeting will be held in the next few weeks.
- Photo Show – Fred Fehr indicated that he, Marian Reed, and Garrie have met with Patricia Washington (UCSD Communications). This year's show will feature U. City school-aged children as the photographers and the theme will be "Why I Love U. City." All photos will be submitted digitally and we will print them. Best photos will be chosen for calendar, regardless of age. There will be no entry fee; other details are to be determined.
- Public Art – The two student projects will be presented to the Parks Commission on 2/21/17 and to Arts & Letters at our 3/9/17 meeting. We will choose one project to be installed on the south side of Heman

Park, on Vernon, from April through early May. Dates will be made available to watch the artists at work in their studios. It has been noted that this class is held only for this specific project.

- Returning Artist – Kay Watts reported that the programs will be held in the UCHS choir room on 2/21 and 2/22/17. Commissioners are requested to attend the reception on 2/22/17 at 6:30; student hosts will direct guests to the choir room.
- Starlight Concerts – Garrie reported from Melcine Henderson that nine artists have committed to performing, one is yet to be heard from. Contracts are being prepared by our staff liaison. We regret that our sound engineer, John Nolan of Profound Sound, passed away recently. His son expects to continue serving us at the same cost; Richard Massey and Melcine are working with him. The first concert will be on 6/5, the last on 8/7, and there are some skipped weeks between.

Old Business: Winnie reported from the executive board meeting discussion the importance of ensuring that there are three members on each committee, per by-law advice. Lynda Euell-Taylor requests an update from everyone as to their committee assignments.

New Business: We will set up an ad hoc committee for the purpose of deciding how to replenish the Levy fund and to help with special projects. Suggestions include 1) an appeal letter, first to former commissioners and 2) an auxiliary of past members who are willing to volunteer on special projects. We will discuss this committee more in March; think about volunteering.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.