

Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City
September 14, 2017

Members Present:

Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Melcine Henderson, Felicia Hickman, Richard Massie, Lauren Masterson Rodriguez, Marian Reed, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Winnie Sullivan, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Myra Vandersall, Kay Watts

Excused: Lawanda Hinton

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by president, Garrie Burr.

Minutes from July 13, 2017. Stephanie moved approval, seconded by Fred, and were approved (1 abstention) with the correction of the spelling of CarolAnn Cole's name.

Citizen Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: 1) Winnie presented the statements from June and July, 2017. 2) The City has approved \$20,000 for Arts & Letters for FY17/18. We have received the final disbursement for 2016 and first disbursement for 2017 from the RAC grant. These funds will be transferred to the General Fund to reimburse Starlight expenses. 3) annual MO registration fee has been paid. The report was accepted unanimously on a motion by Kay, seconded by Barb.

Staff Liaison Report: 1) The City's budget has been presented. A&L funds will be a separate account within the Centennial Commons funding. 2) Lawanda's photo from last year's Trunk or Treat is the cover for the new Rec Guide. 3) Please donate candy for this year's Trunk or Treat! 4) Last, but not least, Lynda thanked us for the flowers sent in memory of her mother.

Council Liaison Report: 1) The city manager search has gone well. It's expected that there will be a time for the public to meet, not vote on, the final candidates before a decision is made. 2) Another RFP will go out for the Olive at Midland site. The council approved a motion to have the Washington University sculptures removed.

Committee Reports

- Finance – Possible grants for next year will be discussed
- Marketing – Changes to ROARS are appreciated. CarolAnn Cole (UCSD) has suggested a liaison between A&L and the school district. Myra will invite Lori Willis (UCSD Director of Development) to sit in on committee meetings. 3) A survey about the community's knowledge of A&L programs and how to better tailor them to public interest has been suggested.
- Literary – The Tradition of Literary Excellence award will be presented on October 27. Other projects are being considered.
- Photo Show – Fred will send photos to commissioners and asks that we vote for top three; cash prizes will be given to those. There was discussion about calendar art if there are not enough photos of appropriate quality. There will not be a reception this year. Suggestions are welcome to replace photo show as a source of calendar art in the future.
- Public Art – The committee has met with Noah Kirby. The Commission will provide a general theme—three choices to be voted on—to Noah by the first of January. Three to five pieces will be constructed and they will be voted on by the public. Contracts will be with each student rather than with the school and art will be displayed throughout summer. Material fees and stipends will be set.
- Returning Artist – Raquel Smith Hunter (UCHS '96), author of a fiction series focusing on a young girl, will be the 2018 Returning Artist. Tentative date for the reception is February 8. (In the future, the plan is to schedule this program for UCHS Homecoming Week.)
- Starlight Concerts – The committee will begin to schedule next year's concerts soon. Suggestions (names, bio, genre, contact info) are welcome. Melcine thanked the Commission for the proclamation and reiterated that she has loved doing this project.

Old Business: Ad Hoc committee for fundraising letter will meet soon. There is interest in doing Movies in the Park, and more discussion is warranted.

New Business: 1) Please email Lynda with changes or choice of committee assignments. 2) Nominating Committee: 3) Holiday party: Felicia and Kay. 4) Trunk or Treat: Volunteers are encouraged to offer help if Lawanda is going to participate again. 5) UCIB has requested volunteers for the Plein Air Garden Tour. 6) Opening reception for utility box art will be held at Heman Park on 10/22.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.