



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City - April 14, 2016

Members Present:

Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Melcine Henderson, Felicia Hickman, Marian Reed, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Bwayne Smotherson, Winnie Sullivan, Nicole Thomas, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Myra Vandersall, Kay Watts

Excused: Brad Heinemann, Marian Reed

Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor

Council Liaison: Shelley Welsch

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by President Garrie Burr

Minutes from March 10, 2016. Ms. Schlaifer moved approval, Ms. Watts seconded, approved unanimously

Citizen Comments: no citizen comments

Rain Man discussion: Ms. Sullivan reported: Sue Greenberg (VLAA) advised that ownership of the sculpture must be established before VLAA is able to give assistance. Their help is limited to non-profits. We do not have enough information to assume ownership by any party. Ms. Sullivan will attempt to gain any information possible from Ms. Greenberg or VLAA as to ownership. Ms. Henderson moved that our staff liaison check with Sinan Alpaslan (Dir. Of Public Works/Parks) to determine whether the City Attorney has looked at the agreement. Ms. Romero seconded, the motion failed. Ms. Schlaifer moved that ownership of Rain Man be transferred to Gateway Foundation pending clarification of ownership and that contracts definitively reflect ownership of the piece, Mr. Smotherson seconded. The motion passed with seven ayes, 4 nays, and 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report: 1) Ms. Sullivan presented the financial summary through March 31, 2016. 2) She reported the initial RAC application was okayed and she will continue preparing the final application which must be submitted on March 29, 2016. 3) A letter to the City Manager regarding budget numbers and presentation for Arts & Letters has received no response. The treasurer's intent is to schedule a meeting with the City Manager. 4) A MAC grant application will be submitted at a future date. The report was accepted unanimously on a motion by Ms. Henderson, second by Mr. Fehr

Staff Liaison Report: Signage for the 2016 sculptures has been received. Five contracts have been received for Starlight Concerts.

Council Liaison Report: Mr. Smotherson will be sworn in to the City Council and will therefore leave the Commission. Fair U City is coming up in June, Jazz Fest will be held on June 11, Taste of U. City will be held on May 12.

Committee Reports

- Community Visuals – Mr. Burr (chair) announced that volunteers are requested during and after the Sculpture reception. The students will do set up.
- Finance – Ms. Sullivan (chair) repeated that she will meet with the City Manager soon after this meeting. Mr. Smotherson will need to be replaced as at-large member of the Finance Committee.
- Literary – Ms. Sullivan (chair) announced that there will be three children's and three YA authors at the Literary Festival in October, along with other activities.
- Marketing – No report
- Photo Show – New easels are being ordered for future shows.
- Policies & Procedures – No report; meetings will be held after the May Commission meeting
- Returning Artist – No report
- Starlight Concerts – Ms. Henderson announced that several contracts are still to be returned. Youth will perform on June 4, 3:30-6:30 p.m., performing arts not limited to music.

Old Business: Ms. Watts needs the commitment of all Commissioners before definite plans are made for a trivia night because of the amount of work required. Other suggestions for fundraising were made: a bistro, selling bracelets, buttons, temporary tattoos. Ms. Watts and Ms. Vandersall will compose a fundraising letter.

New Business: No new business

Other Business: Mr. Burr thanked Ms. Romero for her service and requested that she continue to pass along her wisdom and help whenever possible. Ms. Romero shared some of the original Rain Man announcements and items, and will loan them for the Sculpture Series opening.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.