



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters
City of University City
July 14, 2016
Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania

President Garrie Burr called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Other members present were: Fred Fehr, Felecia Hickman, Richard Massey, Marian Reed, Stephanie Schlaifer, Winifred Sullivan, Nicole Thomas, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Myra Vandersall, Kay Watts

Excused: Melcine Henderson, Barbara Santoro
Lawanda Hinton

Unexcused:

Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor
(absent): Bwayne Smotherson

Council Liaison

Disposition of Minutes from June 9, 2016

Ms. Watts moved approval, Ms. Vandersall seconded, approved unanimously pending correction.

Citizen's Comments - no citizen comments

Rain Main Update:

At the June meeting, the commission voted to transfer ownership to University City. Mr. Belz, lawyer from Volunteer Lawyer Association, drew up the "Assignment of rights" document, which the commission reviewed and Mr. Walker, the City Manager must sign. The sculpture was sold for \$10.

Treasurer Report:

Ms. Sullivan presented the financial summary through June 30, 2016. The Levy account has been upgraded to a small business money market account to comply with requirements of Levy family. The account will bear a small interest and has a minimum balance requirement.

Ms. Sullivan prepared a year-end report but needs to consult with the Finance Committee before finalizing and presenting the report. The Treasurer and Secretary are standing members of the committee and Ms. Toliver-Diallo will replace Mr. Smotherson on the Finance committee. The report will be finalized and presented at the September meeting. There will be advance copies at the office of Ms. Sullivan and the office of Staff Liaison for commissioners who want to review before the meeting. Ms. Schlaifer moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Ms. Hickman seconded.

Ms. Sullivan has submitted an invoice for the Regional Arts Commission Grant for the Sculpture Series. The RAC funds can only be used for the Sculpture Series so those will be deposited in Levy Fund. RAC awarded the commission with a \$7000 grant for Starlight Concert Series. The Executive Committee recommended and approved the opening of a separate account to track those funds.

Mr. Burr and Ms. Sullivan met with Mr. Walker to get clarification on budget and to request additional funds for the Starlight Concert Series over what the city had budgeted for Arts & Letters. The city will grant additional funds but smaller than the request. However, the commission can meet again to request a budget amendment if needed.

Staff Liaison Report:

Ms. Euell-Taylor distributed an updated phone list. Those who need to make changes to the information should contact Ms. Euell-Taylor.

Council Liaison Report – no report provided

Committee Reports

- Finance – no report provided
- Literary Series - Literary: Lit in the Lou will take place October 21-22. Friday's event includes a Gala (place to be determined). Saturday, October 22 includes a Children's Book Fest. and Literary Pub Crawl. An application has been made to Jackson Park Elementary for the Children's festival. There, there will be free vendor space to literacy groups. The Saint Louis Literary Consortium is contacting businesses in Loop who might like to host the Literary Pub Crawl. Businesses that have confirmed as site hosts include CreateSpace, Melting Pot and Three Kings. At the Pub Crawl, each location would have an activity and reading by local author. Ms. Stephanie suggested working with the Missouri Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators to help market the festival and locate authors.

Literary Committee is also working on a Poetry Painting project to take place in April during National Poetry Month. Those who have ideas should send recommendations to Ms. Sullivan. University City has had two poet laureate - Ms. Toliver-Diallo suggested working with the Howard Nemorov Scholars.

- Marketing Development - Ms. Vandersall is focused on publicizing Starlight Concert Series. Soon the committee will transition to Lit in the Lou so that it increases in visibility. Marketing Committee will work with Ms. Sullivan. Ms. Vandersall touched on fundraising and Mr. Burr requested that each committee think about their needs and then organized a targeted fundraiser. Mr. Burr would like to work with each committee to develop thoughts and plans.
- Photo Show - Mr. Fehr needs to meet with Ms. Reed and will have a report in September.
- Policies and Procedures - Ms. Watts will set up a meeting. She located her old procedure sheet.
- Returning Artist - Ms. Watts met with Ms. Washington at the University City School District. The committee would like to secure Stan Ford (Class of 1975), a concert pianist currently based in Austria. The format of the program would be different and they hope to bus kids to the high school for a master class. He was the first African American hired at the Mozarteum in Austria. He has been there for 37 years. Ms. Watts would like additional members for the committee.
- Public Art - The big change is that the two-semester course from WUSTL will now be one semester spring course. Therefore the process for the sculpture series will move much more quickly. Mr. Heinemann resigned from the commission; new members are welcome.
- Starlight Concert Series: Vernon's BBQ donated 2-\$25 gift certificates for the raffle at the Concert Series. If other commissioners can secure items for raffle, they would be appreciated. Jeff Hardin is the next performer and is very popular, followed by Theo Peoples the following week. There are five concerts that remain and the committee will really need the help of commissioners with raffles for the next five Mondays. There have been great crowds. Marketing has taken some great crowd pictures for the Facebook page.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business:

- The Nominating Committee will be Mr. Fehr, Ms. Thomas, and Ms. Toliver-Diallo

- The Holiday Celebration will be held at the home of Kay Watts for our December 8th meeting since there will be no photo selection. Ms. Thomas, Ms. Watts, and Ms. Hickman will be on the Holiday Celebration planning committee.
- U City in Bloom is planning a Plein Air event in September at Centennial Commons. Arts & Letters is welcome to have an information table at the event. U City in Bloom would like Arts & Letters to help advertise the event. Additional information will be provided.

Other Business: Movies in the Parks was moved to July 30 because of the rain on July 9.

Adjournment: President Garrie Burr adjourned Meeting at 7:56 p. m.