



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters  
City of University City  
June 9, 2016

**Members Present:** Garrie Burr, Winnie Sullivan, Fred Fehr, Kay Watts, Myra Vandersall, Richard Massey, Melcine Henderson, Felecia Hickman, Marian Reed, Wilmetta Toliver Diallo

**Excused:** Stephanie Schlaifer, Barbara Santoro, Nicole Thomas

**Staff Liaison:** Lynda Euell-Taylor

**Council Liaison:** Shelley Welsch

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

**Minutes from May 12, 2016:** Ms. Vandersall moved approval, Ms. Watts seconded, approved unanimously pending correction. Mr. Massey has been sworn in.

**Citizen Comments:** No citizens' comments.

**Rain Man Update:** Matt Belz, with the firm of Ottsen, Leggat & Belz, summarized the legal opinion he provided, following his review of the Agreement to Reproduce a Sculpture, regarding ownership of the Rain Man sculpture: 1. Mr. Belz said that the agreement clearly states that the artist, Greg Cullen, retains no rights of ownership in the Rain Man; 2. The agreement does not make clear whether the commission owns the sculpture or the city owns the sculpture; 3. Mr. Belz concluded that the city probably owns the Rain Man for two reasons: a) the sculpture is located on Epstein Plaza, which is city property, and it would be very unusual for a property owner to allow on its site permanent residence of property owned by another entity, and b) part of the mandated function of the commission is to solicit/encourage the donation of artwork to the city; and 4. To clearly establish the city's ownership of the Rain Man, the commission should prepare a release of rights or a quitclaim deed to release any rights that the commission might have in the Rain Man. Mr. Belz offered to draft that document for the commission.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Sullivan presented the financial summary through May 31, 2016. Myra Vandersall moved approval of the formal treasurer's report; Kay Watts seconded the motion; the report was accepted unanimously. Ms. Sullivan mentioned that she will prepare a year-end financial report for the Commission's July meeting.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she had attended the meeting at which our RAC grant application was reviewed by a group of panelists. She described the meeting as informative and reported that the panelists had overwhelmingly positive remarks about the Starlight Concert Series, the program for which funding had been requested. The panelists ranked the grant applications on a scale of from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest possible score. The Arts & Letters proposal received a 3+ ranking. Ms. Sullivan mentioned that after the proposed allocation within the University City budget for Arts & Letters has been approved, it will also be possible to proceed with a grant request to the Missouri Arts Council.

**Staff Liaison Report:** No report.

**Council Liaison Report:** 1. The Police Dept. will be moving into modular units on the old Delmar Harvard Elementary School grounds at a one-time cost of one million dollars. 2. The expectation is that there will be a new police facility in place by January 2019. 3. Fair U. City will take place on June 10, 11, & 12; proceeds will support the University City Community Foundation.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Finance:** No report. Ms. Sullivan mentioned the need to add one commissioner to the Finance Committee.
- **Literary:** No report. Ms. Sullivan mentioned receipt of a suggestion about a poetry project that she would like to discuss with the Literary Committee before bringing a recommendation to the full Commission.
- **Marketing:** Ms. Vandersall asked commissioners to "Like" and "Share" Arts & Letters events on their Facebook pages. This will help to raise awareness of Arts & Letters events and will help with our fundraising activities. Ms. Euell-Taylor is getting clarification about the production schedule for *Roars* from the City's marketing firm.
- **Photo Show:** Fred Fehr reviewed ideas for the 2017 Calendar. He stated that he would like to get the School District involved with the Photo Show at all levels: elementary, middle, and high school. Marian Reed mentioned that CarolAnn Cole, a communications specialist for the School District, is supportive of this idea and would like to actively participate in planning and programming.
- **Policies and Procedures Manual:** Kay Watts will set a meeting of those on the committee so that work on the manual can get underway.
- **Public Art:** Garrie Burr thanked commissioners for having attended the Sculpture Program reception, and he mentioned that the Levy family was quite satisfied with the reception and with the general direction of the program. Mr. Burr mentioned having seen several of the sculpture students at last month's graduation ceremony, and he noted that one student, who now has a commission

from the City of St. Louis, has been able to apply, as a professional artist, the skills she learned as a student participant in our Public Art Program.

- **Returning Artists:** Kay Watts asked commissioners to please tell her of any University City school graduate who has made a career in the arts and who might be invited to take part in the Returning Artists Program. She also asked commissioners to volunteer to serve on this committee. Ms. Watts will help to arrange a meeting with the new Superintendent to facilitate collaboration with the School District on a number of Arts & Letters programs.
- **Starlight Concerts:** Ms. Henderson noted that both of the Monday night concerts in the park have been very successful. She stated that she's been receiving calls from those wanting to attend the concerts but who cannot find the concert schedule on the Arts & Letters website. Mr. Burr said that he will check the website to verify that the current concert schedule is posted. Ms. Henderson asked about the possibility of obtaining a banner to help attendees identify the location of the concerts. She also mentioned that raffle ticket sales at the concerts have been brisk.

**Old Business:** Commissioners agreed to continue the exploration of, and discussion about, fundraising opportunities.

**New Business:** There was no new business. Mr. Burr offered the reminder that the summer band will, once again this year, be playing a series of evening concerts, but that they have moved from the Market in the Loop to Heman Park.

**Other Business:** There was no other business.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. by President Garrie Burr.