

Present: Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Melcine Henderson, Marian Reed, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Bwayne Smotherson, Winnie Sullivan, Kay Watts, Myra Vandersall

Staff liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor

Council liaison: Shelley Welsch

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair, Melcine Henderson.

New commissioner Marian Reed was welcomed and introduced to other commissioners.

Minutes from December 9, 2014 were approved with the correction of Fred Fehr's name—motion by Barbara Romero, second by Myra Vandersall.

Citizens' Comments: Judy Prange (U. City in Bloom) requested that U. City in Bloom be the theme of the 2017 calendar to highlight the 2015 30th anniversary of U. City in Bloom. Their organization will help promote the 2015 Photo Show in order to attract photos appropriate for the 2017 calendar.

Jeff Hales expressed his thanks for the Commission's having made the email discussion (public meeting) available to the public. He is dismayed by the adoption of the new logo and shares many of the concerns of the Commission. Mr. Hales expressed his thanks to commissioners for their commitment and time.

Treasurer's Report: Winnie Sullivan presented the financial summary as of January, 2015.

Tax forms due 11/15 were filed appropriately.

Ms. Sullivan read from an email from Marvin Levy to Marilyn Cathcart expressing his appreciation of being asked for his preferences for the dispersal of Marvin Levy Fund funds. Mr. Levy's intention re: the use of the fund was to "establish an award program...[for] the student or students submitting the best sculpture (or painting, if the program is expanded)...". His statement limiting the use of funds was as follows: " Given the costly nature of acquisitions, using the money for sculpture purchases seems financially impractical and I am not enamored with the idea of melding the money into a general fund and having it carried over from year to year to accumulate sufficient funds for any given acquisition."

We voted to give the treasurer sole signing privileges for checks not to exceed \$250. (Kay Watts, Bwayne Smotherson motion)

Internal controls—the processes will be available for review and vote on adoption at February meeting.

The treasurer proposed that a finance committee be established. Commissioners are requested to consider appointments to the committee.

The final FY14-15 budget was presented. Approximately \$5,000 anticipated expenses will not be provided by the City. These expenses will be covered by the Levy Fund and the RAC grant. In order to avoid gradual depletion of the Commission's accounts and to include expense categories that have been omitted from previous budgets, the treasurer recommended that: a) the total budget be increased from \$21,500 to \$23,900 (approx. 10% increase); and b) that a fundraising goal of \$7,000 be set to better provide for actual expenses.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor requests list and locations of public art, other than that located in schools, be emailed to her by commissioners.

Council Liaison Report: The City budget, to be approved by June 27, is being discussed presently. A study session was held last Monday to discuss possible bond issues for the April, 2015, election: \$20 million/20 years for street repair and \$5 million for park improvement. The Bloomberg Philanthropies Grant application has been submitted. Press release materials for the Sculpture Series should be sent to Ms. Welsch and to the City for publication. Ms. Welsch encourages us to consider other competitions for the Levy Funds; she suggests that Mr. Levy didn't expect the fund to grow to its present amount. Fair U City has been scheduled for June 5-7; volunteers are welcome.

Committee Reports

Community Visuals: 1) Garrie Burr will provide a slide show of submissions for the Gallery Show (1/24/15) and will let us know when the art is hung. Commissioners are asked to vote for winners of the prizes—please arrive at the gallery before the 2 p.m. reception so the results can be tabulated for a 3 p.m.

announcement. Please sign up to set up or clean up for reception. 2) 'Recollections'—U. City Parks Foundation has agreed to pay for making the sculpture permanent and will donate it to the City.

Returning Artist: Invitations are ready to be sent out for the reception (2/5/15, University City High School library) with DuEwa Frazier. Commissioners should advise Kay Watts if they would like to attend a school presentation.

Photo Show: Ms. Romero has prepared letters to send to possible sponsors. Winnie will provide updated letterhead stationery and envelopes. In order to accommodate the U. City in Bloom request for calendar theme, the 2015 Photo Show will be held in the fall, rather than April. (Vote on motion by Ms. Watts, Fred Fehr) Ms. Romero and Joy Wade will make necessary changes and arrangements as well as determine a date. Mr. Burr will rewrite the press release and update website with "date tbd" information.

Starlight Concerts: Ms. Henderson is sending out contracts now. There will be two special concerts, in addition to the usual Monday nights. It was suggested that donated large-screen TV's be raffled (at increased ticket prices) at those concerts. Other suggestions are requested, also.

Marketing: Bid totals for the new brochure will be available in February. The website is up to date with sculpture projects, returning artist, executive board members. Basic press releases will be ready for ROARS by Monday's deadline.

Old Business:

1) Ms. Sullivan is typing up the by-laws and will have available for Ms. Euell-Taylor and Ms. Riganti by next week. There is a resolution for one change to go to the City Council.

2) Grace Hong (RAC) encourages us to apply for funds for series other than Sculpture. Ms. Sullivan will provide a mission statement to her for advice for specific grant suggestions. Ms. Hong also requests summary and budgets for each of our programs, as well as areas we've considered for additional funds. There is a deadline of March 4; Stephanie Schlaifer and Garrie Burr will help with applications.

3) Discussion – Bwayne Smotherson—logo and implementation. Mr. Smotherson read the statement (printed below) which he had previously read to City Council regarding its discussion on "marketing." Mr. Smotherson then made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Fehr, and approved (8 votes for):
"Motion to respectfully ask the Mayor to appoint another councilperson as the Liaison to Arts and Letters."

"I move that this commission request the Mayor respectfully choose another councilperson as our Liaison so that this group can get the advice and attention required by the charter as volunteers and residents of this city. I in no way want to show any disregard or disrespect to the Mayor's position and daily responsibilities while being the head of this City. I know that those duties may be overwhelming and requires a lot of time and attention.

My reason for this request is so that reports of our activities are correctly and regularly reported not only to the Council based on the liaison responsibilities, but also made available to the public as part of the meeting and public record. Two events and a very valid email decision were never reported to the council during the regular meetings. There was Lit in the Loop October 10th-12th needed by our own Winnie Sullivan and the Starlight Concert Series that ended August 4th, headed by our President, Melcine Henderson, and were never mentioned in the council meeting during the designated "Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions." The email majority decision to not bring back the New Logo was not reported. By the way, if commission members were not aware, the Council did vote and pass the Marketing of University City which included branding using the new Logo at the October 27th meeting. Again, our **ADVICE** on that matter was not mentioned to the Council by our Liaison.

There were Liaison reports made during meetings on youth commission, parks commission, and also the Mayor reported on Fair U. City and other announcements but none included the Arts commission.

I make this motion based on three specific things that have happened.

1st The Mayor's lack of an answer when asked how the previously voted down Logo was brought back to the City Manager.

2nd The way we as a group were handled with the email meeting and then having our agenda changed when the public and this commission were ready to discuss this in September.

3rd The lack of any mention of the activities being reported to the council.

I believe that this had to be stated at the council meeting but more importantly, I believe we as a group have to make a statement and stand for ourselves. Not only do we have rules and responsibilities that we have to follow, but make others working with us and for us responsible in their duties."

Ms. Welsch explained that she would not remove herself from the position of liaison as she believes that there is a misunderstanding of our responsibility. Any questions that we have should be referred to the City Manager. Mr. Smotherson suggests, due to the hour, that we continue the discussion at our next meeting.

New Business:

2015 Committees:

Community Visuals – Garrie Burr (chair), Stephanie Schlaifer
Returning Artist – Kay Watts (chair), Bwayne Smotherson (to chair next year), Barbara Santoro
Photo Show – Barbara Romero (chair), Joy Wade, Marian Reed, Myra Vandersall
Starlight Concerts – Melcine Henderson(chair), Bwayne Smotherson
Literary – Winnie Sullivan (chair), Fred Fehr, Garrie Burr, Kay Watts, Stephanie Schlaifer
Marketing – Garrie Burr (chair), Fred Fehr, Winnie Sullivan, Myra Vandersall

Statement to City Council: “My name is Bwayne Smotherson, I live at 1243 Purdue Ave and I am a member of the Commission on Arts and Letters.

I was informed the day after the last meeting that you the Council voted on and approved the Marketing and Branding strategy which included the New Logo. I don't waste my time nor do I appreciate others wasting my time. If you were going to pass this, ignoring anything that Arts and Letters had to say and also the residents that came to meetings to express their concerns, you should not have brought it to our meeting at all. I didn't join this commission to be handled, manipulated and then completely muted and dismissed by any one person or group. I joined so that I could serve this city. Art is absolutely subjective. This isn't an exact science and you don't have an expert more qualified than the residents of this city.

The city of St. Louis' mayor Bernard Dickman in 1943 wanted to brand City Hall at Market and Tucker. Meaning he wanted to name that building. So what he came up with was a neon sign that was red, white, and blue and said City Hall.

The Fine Arts Commission told him no!!!

So what was decided was to engrave the words “City Hall” into the building. That engraving stands today.

Every aspect about your logo from the beginning to now has been presented badly, voted against twice and approved suspiciously.

That should tell you and this city a lot about Neighborhood to the World.”

Adjournment: 9:10 (Ms. Santoro, Ms. Sullivan)