



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters  
City of University City  
Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania  
March 12, 2015

**Members Present:**

Garrie Burr, Fred Fehr, Brad Heinemann, Melcine Henderson, Marian Reed, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Stephanie Schlaifer, Bwayne Smotherson, Winnie Sullivan, Myra Vandersall, Joy Wade, Kay Watts

**Absent:** Marian Reed

Staff Liaison,: Lynda Euell-Taylor  
Council Liaison: Shelley Welsch

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by chair, Melcine Henderson. Roll call determined that a quorum was present and no changes requested to agenda.

Minutes from February 12, 2015: Ms. Watts moved approval with correction of Fair U. City dates to June 5-7, Mr. Burr seconded, unanimous approval

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Presentations**

Beth Norton ("Arts in U. City" representative) explained that the purpose of the group is to make U. City a destination for visual and performing arts. 1) They plan to obtain names and contact information for U. City artists, 2) provide Open Studios, and 3) coordinate a small outdoor arts festival this summer. They would like to work as a complement to Arts & Letters with small events. They presently have six active members. Funding is only from donations at this time; we would like grant requests to be coordinated so that we do not compete. It is good to have interested citizens supporting the arts; it may be that they can link information through A&L website.

**Treasurers Report**

Ms. Sullivan distributed and explained copies of the Financial Summary. It will be sent with prior packets in the future. Mr. Burr moved approval, Ms. Schlaifer seconded, unanimous approval.

Mr. Smotherson volunteered to fill the at large position on the Finance Committee.

**Staff Liaison Report**

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported that 1) the Recreation staff and Ms. Riganti met with the MSW marketing firm. They will do public relations and marketing for the City and will assist A&L as needed; they will be requested to track information going out and responses for us for our RAC grant(s). 2) Our info board is out of date. 3) Jonathan Berger has been working on his (Sculpture Series) project and may add additional dates.

**Council Liason Report**

The trolley project groundbreaking has been held. Citizen volunteer groups, including "Arts in U. City," will meet later in the month. The Bloomberg grant was not funded.

**Committee Reports**

- Community Visuals – Mr. Burr reported that Jonathan Berger may take photos at the reception on April 11 and, possibly, on his set-up day and at some of the schools. Reception details tbd, Sam Fox School is working on publicity postcard. 2016 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sculpture projects—more details later.
- Photo Show – Ms. Romero discussed issues necessitated by collaboration with U. City in Bloom Garden Tour. Commissioners will help so that requested timing will work (awards around 2:10, reception from 1-6 p.m.) Show rules and deadlines need to be available for May/June ROARS, logistics of display/transportation of photos can be worked out later. Ms. Vandersall offered to help by scanning jpegs of photos for digital display. Ms. Henderson requests a collaborative report in April on plans for the Photo Show on 9/20/15.
- Returning Artist – no report
- Starlight Concerts – no report

- Marketing – no report

#### **Old Business**

- Public Practices Class Arts Project – Mr. Burr met with Ron Fondaw’s class to see preliminary designs; he will see finals next week and report on them.
- RAC Grant – Ms. Sullivan reported that she has given a description of our mission and programs to our new grant contact, Lynn Maupin. There are monthly (MAC) grants which we can apply for and prepare for the 2016 consortium grant. We will invoice them for the Sculpture Series. We will determine their definition of “organization” for the purposes of the consortium.
- Discussion – Bwayne Smotherson (continuation of discussion of vote re: council liaison) explained that membership on the Commission has taught him that it’s important to maintain our integrity in U. City especially with respect to items added to budget and competition for grant funds and to strengthen our organization in order to be more effective. He requests that anyone interested in discussing his concerns give him a call rather than taking meeting time.

#### **New Business** -- none

#### **Other Business**

Ms. Henderson felt that there was some unreadiness with regard to the January motion and vote to request a change of council liaison and moved to rescind, Ms. Watts seconded. 6 yea, 3 nay, 1 abstention; motion carried.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.