



Regular Meeting of the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters  
City of University City  
Tuesday, September 9, 2014  
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd.

President Melcine Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other members present were Garrie Burr, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Bwayne Smotherson, Stephanie Schlaifer, Susan Stang, Winifred Sullivan, Myra Vandersall, and Kay Watts.

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

Approved Absence: Frederick Fehr, Bobette Patton, Joy Wade  
Absent without Leave: Bruce Lucas, Bonnie Tesson

**Disposition of Minutes from July 8, 2014**

Ms. Santoro made a motion to approve minutes, Ms. Watts seconded. Vote taken, all approved.

**Citizen Comments**

Frank Ohlendorf gave his comments on the new city logo branding questions from the July meeting. He distributed a copy of the graphics standards manual created for the present logo and used examples from its guidelines for his feelings that the new logo should not be approved.

Jeff Hales expressed his desire that commissioners' opinions about the new logo, which were asked of commissioners by email, should be made available to the public.

**Treasurer Report**

Ms. Sullivan distributed the financial information available as of the end of August, 2014, including the financial summary, and bank statements for the general account and the Marvin Levy Fund. She also announced that the draft budget will be distributed at the October meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Santoro to accept Treasurer's Report. Ms. Stang seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

**Staff Liaison Report**

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported that U City in Bloom had put up the sculpture project's "A Play on Perception" by Sarah Theis in the Butterfly Garden.

### **Council Liaison Report**

Mayor Welsch announced that a dinner for all city commissions would be scheduled in October and that invitations would be sent out shortly. She also wanted to remind the commission about the September 12 weekend events of Fair UCity, which this year would include special celebrations of local veterans.

She also reported the plan to form a Citizens Volunteer Corps which would include the creation of an Arts District.

### **Committee Reports**

*Community Visuals:* Mr. Burr brought several votes to the commission regarding Community Visuals.

1) A vote was asked of the Arts & Letters commission to approve combining the two Washington University/University City collaborations, "Sculpture" and "2D" into one committee called "Community Visuals." The two disciplines would share a common theme for their works, but they would unveil their annual pieces at two separate receptions.

This merger was recommended as a result of a meeting of Executive Board of A&L and with Liz Kramer of Sam Fox school. Noah Kirby and Buzz Spector expressed their support for this proposal.

Ms. Watts made a motion to approve this merger, Ms. Santoro seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

2) At their July meeting the Parks Commission unanimously agreed to allow both sculptures -- "Recollections" in Kaufman Park and "Eden" on Wilson Avenue -- to remain up until March 2015. They asked that if one of the pieces becomes irreparably damaged during that time period that it be removed from the site as soon as possible and that the grounds be returned to its previous state.

A vote was asked of the Arts & Letters commission to also approve of this extension. Ms. Santoro made a motion to approve, Ms. Watts seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

3) Approval was also sought for the proposed theme for the 2015 Sculpture and Gallery collaborations between U City and Washington University.

Professors Noah Kirby and Buzz Spector wrote: "We propose the theme of "Citizen" for this year's University City Sculpture Series and Gallery Series exhibitions. In our view the concept heading of 'Citizen' is well suited to our shared desire that Washington University students be more engaged as citizens within the community. We believe as well that this theme is ideally suited to the mission of Arts and Letters Commission. To quote Marvin Levy, this project is

concerned with 'exploring ways to involve the citizens of a community in the processes and conversations of public art.' For the students this is a way to prompt a dialog about using their artwork as a means to express and explore their citizenship. It is our hope that you will agree with us that "Citizen" is an appropriate theme for this year's partnership. As always, we look forward to continuing our long tradition of working together."

Ms. Santoro made a motion to approve this theme, Ms. Sullivan seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

Mr. Burr also reported that the reception dates have been reserved at the U City library auditorium: Saturday, January 24 for Gallery (formerly known as "2D") and Saturday, April 11 for Sculpture.

Finally, he announced that the Arts & Letters commission was invited to visit student studios at the Sam Fox School on October 7. More details would be sent via email to commissioners.

*Literary:* Ms. Sullivan reported the Lit in the Lou was seeking help in getting vendors and underwriters for the upcoming festival. They are also setting up an indiegogo fund raising site on the web. Information on the site would be sent to commissioners.

*Marketing and Development:* Mr. Burr thanked committee chairs for sending him the updated text needed for the brochure. Marketing would now be able to start working on a final copy of the brochure for the printer.

*Returning Artist:* Ms. Watts announced they've selected poet and writer DuEwa Frazier for the 2015 Returning Artist. February 2 to 6 is scheduled for the program, with a reception in the U City High School Library set for the evening of February 5. Ms. Frazier's work can be viewed at her website, <http://www.duewaworld.com/>

*Starlight Concert:* Ms. Henderson called this year's Starlight Concert season a success, noting the diversity of the artists and the larger crowds. Raffle ticket sales were up. They are already getting the roster set for next year's line-up and are looking into keeping special Saturday shows on the schedule. They also plan to continue using the PTOs as food vendors.

### **Old Business**

*Fair UCity:* Ms. Henderson presented the contracts for this year's Fair UCity musical acts. Mr. Burr made a motion to pay a flat \$500 for the Fair to help pay for these acts. Mr. Smotherson seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

Ms. Welsch also said that with that amount the Fair could place the Arts & Letters Commission logo on one of the rides. Mr. Burr will send her a digital copy of the logo.

*By-Laws:* Ms. Henderson said they had made a lot of progress, had cleaned-up a lot of the language. Only one change would be made to the laws, which they planned to present to council for approval.

**Other Business**

Ms. Romero shared a copy of twelve-year-old commission minutes she found and she planned on putting those minutes, along with many old commission pictures, into an album that would be given to Ms. Euell-Taylor.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.