

Arts & Letters Commission Meeting

April 12, 2011

Present:

Marilyn Cathcart

Diane Davenport

Trish Hayes

Adelia Parker-Castro

Barbara Romero

Joy Wade

Melcine Henderson

Mary Dee Schmidt

Maria DaGrosa Sweeney

Leslie Eutz—staff liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Nancy MacCartney, HUD/DOT Grant Administrator, presented an overview of progress on the Akert Walkway grant project. She answered questions and stated that she will keep us updated as the work continues. In addition, information will be available on a dedicated website with links to various other community sites. Marilyn Cathcart agreed to represent the Commission at the April 21 discussion of the student presentations of their Walkway plans.

Jeff Weintrop, vice president of the Loop Special Business District, presented plans for the mural to be painted on the west wall of Vintage Vinyl by Washington University graduate students. A new mural will be painted on the wall each year per agreement with the Washington University Art Department, with the possibility of expanding to four murals on the same wall, one for each class year--freshman, sophomore, junior, senior. Mr. Weintrop told us of the Labor Day weekend First Annual Loop Chalk Art Festival; several businesses have donated space for chalk artists, several have committed to sponsor and the public will be invited to vote for their favorite.

New members Mary Dee Schmidt and Maria DaGrosa Sweeney were introduced.

The treasurer was absent so no treasurer's report was given.

The City Council liaison was absent so no council liaison report was given.

Staff report by Leslie Eutz: Lynda Euell-Taylor will replace Tom McCarthy as the new RAC grant administrator. Paper work has been sent to the State to record that change for tax purposes.

Committee reports:

Sculpture – Marilyn Cathcart reported that the reception was well-attended. Marvin Levy, one of the original founders of the program, was honored during this 25th anniversary. The Sculpture program was given good coverage by U. City Patch; we will keep them on our mailing/alert list. Issues which were discussed: the need to work with Washington University staff to set dates and book space for selection and reception asap each year; the need to put reception dates on the U. City calendar; students must be sure that all permissions are given for their proposed sites; if Washington Univ. is to design and print publicity paperwork in lieu of cash contributions, their standards must meet our requirements. It is hoped that we, along with Ewald Winkler, can meet with the faculty to discuss these and any other issues which arise. Also, Adelia Parker-Castro has photographed all sculptures during her tenure on the Commission; we would like to develop an archive of all sculptures. Mr. Levy is anxious to contribute to the series; we envision establishing a fund to purchase sculpture.

*The minutes of the March meeting were approved. Barbara Santoro moved approval, _____ seconded.

Returning Artist – Diane Davenport urges that we start planning for next year. She is happy to continue involvement with this program. At least one other person is needed, to help and to provide continuity in the next year. In May, we should revisit the list of possible artist alums; new names should be contributed as identified. We should consider whether another collaboration would be a good idea; it worked very well this year.

Photo Show – Barbara Romero, Joy Wade, some support from Barbara S. and possibly Adelia

Starlight Concerts – Melcine reported that Kim Massingale Chilton has filled all dates. Concerts will begin on June 20 at the same location (Shaftesbury and Midland space) and time (Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.) as last year. Nine concerts are scheduled.

Marketing Development – Joy has a mock-up of a new brochure. She would like recent photos from each series and will proceed with final information, including a donation page and concert list.

Old Business: Barbara Romero requests that we choose areas on which we will work. She would like 2-3 people on each committee.

New Business: Barbara R. requests that we develop a list of possibilities which we could provide that would specifically interest older adults, particularly programs which could be accomplished at low cost or with grant funds.

Diane seconds request that we be able to proofread and add our dates to the U. City calendar. She requests that our role within the city be identified, for instance our ability to work with the Olive Business District. (It was noted that the OBD is apparently not active at this time.) There will be a U. City

Jazz Fest in October. Michael Silverman, a graduate of UCHS, will be performing, and it is hoped that this will grow into an annual event.

Adelia passed along that the realtor (Ken Yeoung) who handles the Seafood City/International Market is temporarily offering free space in that property as long as it is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Santoro