

Arts & Letters minutes

November 8, 2011

Present: Garrie Burr, Marilyn Cathcart, Diane Davenport, Melcine Henderson, Adelia Parker-Castro, Barbara Romero, Barbara Santoro, Mary Dee Schmidt, Maria D. Sweney, Charlotte Tatum, Joy Wade

Council liaison: Arthur Sharpe, Jr.

Staff: Linda Euell-Taylor

Excused: Trish Hayes

Carol Wofsey observed the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Barbara Romero.

Minutes of 10/11/11: motion to approve by Melcine Henderson, second by Charlotte Tatum, approved with the following corrections: "Fish on a Bike" is not a Sculpture Series piece but was funded by the Gateway Foundation; the correct name of the Brass Band (Starlight Concerts) is Monarch Brass.

Treasurer's report: motion to approve by Melcine, second by Adelia Parker-Castro, approved. Twenty-two dollar fees from the last two months' statements are bank errors and will be removed/refunded.

Council report: 1) Arthur Sharpe reported that "A" and "B" cities are in discussions as to the degree to which "A" cities must share taxes collected in their municipalities. (University City is a "B" city.) 2) Budget discussions are ongoing; public meetings will be held and we are encouraged to participate. COLAs have not been budgeted again this year.

Staff report: 1) Lynda Euell-Taylor is in discussions with a party interested in one of the two decorated pianos left from the 2010 festival in Heman Park; both pianos will need to be moved as the space is needed for the Seniors. 2) The contract for entertainment and artists is being revised and will be brought to the Commission for approval. 3) Lynda would like Commission suggestions for updating the display case for A&L. 4) We have been given permission by the City Manager to use the pr firm for city events. Lynda will forward examples of past templates of our publicity.

Committee reports:

Sculpture: Marilyn Cathcart reminds us that sculpture project presentations will begin promptly at 6:30 on 12/13/11 in the Century room; dinner will be served no later than 6:00. Commissioners should alert Marilyn or Lynda asap if they cannot attend. Marilyn gave an overview of the process. She has begun to set in place a process, including contract, for obtaining sculpture series projects for "permanent" installation and we will begin with "Non Park." 2) The Marvin Levy fund: The money is proposed to be used for obtaining the student artwork for permanent display and to cover associated costs. Diane Davenport moved acceptance of the proposal, Adelia seconded, proposal passed. We encourage an educational component to the Levy Fund projects. 3) The committee will follow up on the understanding that Mr. Levy may want to donate additional funds at a later date and may be interested in funding a different project, possibly painting. 4) The committee and treasurer will determine how best to bank these funds (in terms of costs to put them in a separate account linked to our primary account) and will prepare a letter/contract, to be signed by the president, to Mr. Levy detailing our use of his gift. 5) The Parkview Gardens project public review of sustainability will be held at the library tomorrow night @ 7:00. We're encouraged to attend these meetings when possible as we are one of the partners for the project.

Returning Artist: Diane reports that the publicity is in motion through both City and School District departments. A theme has been chosen: Words & Drama, Lyrics & Music. Discussions are ongoing with the high school staff. Graphics students will do posters for us again. Details and commitments for classroom hosting and reception will be discussed in January. The reception location is tbd.

Photo Show: Barbara Romero will propose artwork for the 2013 calendar at a future meeting and several options are available, including The Green Center art and poetry, other student-focused artwork or highlights of A&L projects. There were few entries for this year's show and there was a preliminary discussion about the direction that the show should take in the future.

Starlight Concert: Melcine is working on available CD's and plans to have bands lined up by January, but would like for the Commission to make the final decisions. She has discussed a teen night with the police department; there is concern about the numbers of young people and security and the police chief will make the final decision. (Overtime pay is another significant factor.) Lynda requests an accurate description of genre for publication and handouts. We are requested to obtain raffle gift certificates well before the concerts begin. There is some thought that it would be good to ask booster clubs to sell food, if health regulations allow.

Old Business: It should be noted that the correct name of Susan Slaughter's band is Monarch Brass. Trish Hayes would like to make a short presentation for the possibility of inviting them to give a future concert (outside of the regular Starlight series) and the probable cost to the Commission for that concert.

New Business: New commissioners need name tags, we could use individual business cards. Dan and Lynda will look into these needs. 2) We would like to use the City's domain to set up artsandletters@ucitymo.org. Arthur will look into this possibility for us. 3) There will be a Faith Ringgold event at The Foundry in St. Charles on Thursday; Peter Martin and Chris Thomas will perform on 11/19, Jeremy Davenport (and friends) will perform on 11/26 and 11/27. Maria D. Sweney will have a presentation at the Ethical Society in December.