



REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION ON ARTS & LETTERS

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania

Thursday, September 12, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Members Participating: Sophia Allen, Karla Brown, Marcie Dear, Grace Fitter, A'isha Hedges, Carol Jackson, Linda Jones, Richard Massey, Larry Williams, Meg Zelenovich

Absent: Eleanor Mullin, Marian Reed, Olivia Steely, Charlene Temple

Also participating: Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor and Council Liaison: John Tieman

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Commission President Jones

Minutes: Motion by Ms. Allen to approve July 2024 minutes with 2 corrections; seconded by Ms. Hedges; all approved.

Citizens Comments: Richard Ruder, a University City resident introduced himself and attended the meeting as he is hoping to join A&L in the future.

Isabelle Heidbreder, Executive Director of the Alliance Francaise de St. Louis presented her proposal for French street artist C215 in hopes of having him paint a mural in University City. She mentioned Ackert Park as a location. His stencil art would either be Josephine Baker or a St. Louis boxer. His budget is approximately \$5000.

Montez Miles was also present and mentioned using part of the parking lot across from the Tivoli for C215's mural art.

Discussion followed and the Board felt the timeline was too tight. Ms. Allen reiterated that the proposal process starts with A&L and then goes to Director of Parks, Recreation & Public Areas Maintenance. Also mentioned was the consideration of maintenance plan for mural/public art.

Treasurer Report: Ms. Mullin was absent, but provided the bank statement, showing \$14,366.17 in the account as of July 31, 2024. Motion to approve report by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Brown; all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor shared: ROARS deadline is October 7 for December/January/ February event information. Park Maintenance indicated that there's a shortage of benches for the upcoming Starlight Concert due to numerous block parties. The 2025 Starlight Concert dates are needed for the 2025 calendar by September 20. Ms. Jackson requested something other than benches for the elder concert goers. Mr. Massey was surprised about benches as he made his request in spring time. Also, the U. City Yard Sale is on this weekend, the last one was in 2019.

Council Liaison Report: Mr. Tieman shared about the \$5000 budget approved for Starlight Concerts. Ms. Jones asked if the \$5000 was just for the concerts or for A&L as a whole. Shared about the development of a hotel, a Target and in the space across from what used to be Cicero's. Also, the environmental effort to have net 0 emissions in 10 years, as well as the Green Practices shredding event on September 14.

Committee Reports:

- **Calendar:** Ms. Zelenovich shared a handout to discuss other ideas for the 2026 Calendar as the "Arts & Letters" theme with photos and descriptions is proving to be too limited. Other U. City ideas included: annual events, fun facts, architectural elements and styles, lions, scavenger hunt.
- **Finance:** No Report.
- **Literary:** No Report.
- **Marketing:** Ms. Jones shared that the two upcoming Starlight Concerts will be posted, be sure to share on your social media platforms.
- **Public Art:** Ms. Allen shared that the public art WASHU students will meet with us in November. Citizen/artist Karen Elshout has not provided her proposal with costs. Again, the procedure for art in U. City starts with A&L.
- **Returning Artist:** Ms. Brown has turned over the planning to Ms. Fitter who invited Chris Thomas, a 1988 graduate and bass player based out of Paris to be the returning artist. A November 8 event at the HS library is set to take place.
- **Starlight Concert:** Mr. Massey shared his appreciation for the \$5000. The Starlight Meeting happened last week and they discussed the need for better advertising with more banners, flyers and a QR code for both.
- **New Business:** U. City in Bloom hopes to repurpose WASHU public art and place in their gardens. WASHU is agreeable and no funds needed by A&L.
- **Old Business:** QR code still needs to be researched by Ms. Mullin, A&L binder review will happen at a later date. Ms. Mullin is still working on Starlight contract.
- **Announcements:** Check out the A&L info sheet.

Adjournment: Motion by Ms. Williams; seconded by Ms. Hedges; approved by acclamation.