



**CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION ON ARTS & LETTERS
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Thursday, January 9, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

Members Participating: Sophia Allen, Karla Brown, Grace Fitter, A'isha Hedges, Carol Jackson, Linda Jones, Richard Massey, Eleanor Mullin, Marian Reed, Rick Ruderer, Olivia Steely, Larry Williams, Meg Zelenovich

Absent: Rick Ruderer, Charlene Temple

Also participating: Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Areas Maintenance, Darin Girdler, Council Liaison: John Tieman

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Commission President Jones with ground rules: if you are not speaking, mute your device and use hand feature if you want to speak.

Minutes: Motion by Ms. Mullin to approve November 2024 minutes, seconded by Ms. Hedges; approved by acclamation.

Presentation: Audrey Jones with 2025 Mannequins in The Loop seeking approval of the Mannequins in University City, now in its 16th year. Theme: "Recycle It, Don't Trash It." April 19 kickoff. Upon approval, Ms. Jones will begin seeking sponsorships and artists. The fee for each mannequin is \$300. There's a scholarship valued at \$1000 to be split between two University City High School students.

Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the Mannequin Project as written and described, seconded by Mr. Williams; approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Report: No report. Ms. Mullin shared there's been little activity: 2 reimbursements. December statement is not available due to the snow/mail delivery. Thanks to Mr. Tieman for a generous donation of \$1000 to the Levy Fund: \$11,294.90. The other account is: \$8532.45 for November.

Ms. Jones requested physical copies of the bank statement when Ms. Mullin is not present.

Staff Liaison Report: The Community Center is 99.9% open. December series of Laughter, Lunch and Bingo was a huge success, especially with University City High School Alum (Class of 1982) and St. Louis personality Gary Boyd ("Mr. Gary" - host of Them Yo' People) as our "ultimate" surprise bingo announcer.

Council Liaison Report: No report. Mr. Tieman has been handling 1000s of emails, calls, etc. re: snow removal.

Committee Reports:

- **Starlight Concert:** Mr. Massey explained that they had their meeting of the year. Mr. Williams is working on a proposal for funding. The Committee plans to print 4 banners in March. The banners will not be reusable, will hopefully include a QR code and four proposed locations are: Trinity and Delmar, Olive and Midland, Royal Bank, in front of the park. Ms. Mullin would like to see the current version of the contract to make sure it is legally sound.
- **Returning Artist:** No Report. Great event with Chris Thomas. Meeting at the end of month.
- **Public Art:** No report. Levy Fund is diminishing. Arny Nadler is looking into finding more monies to support this project.
- **Marketing:** No report.
- **Literary:** No Report. Ms. Mullins is working on a list of names for the next event.
- **Finance:** No Meeting. No Report.
- **Calendar:** No Report. Meeting next week to solidify theme.
- **New Business:** Mr. Williams asked that the Committee consider combining Literary and Returning Artist events.
- **Old Business:** QR code will be further researched by Ms. Reed at Royal Bank. Ms. Euell-Taylor sent out an email with all the binder content, be sure to review to see what's missing.
- **Announcements:** None.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Brown; seconded by Ms. Reed; approved by acclamation.
8:18 pm