



REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION ON ARTS & LETTERS OF UNIVERSITY CITY

Thursday, September 11, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Members Participating: Sophia Allen, Karla Brown, Grace Fitter, A’isha Hedges, Carol Jackson, Linda Jones, Richard Massey, Rick Ruderer, Jane Schaefer, Larry Williams, Meg Zelenovich

Absent: Sophia Allen, Hope Horn, Olivia Steely, Charlene Temple

Also participating: Staff Liaison: Lynda Euell-Taylor, Council Liaison: Bwayne Smotherson

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commission President Jones

Welcome: New Commissioner: Jane Schaefer

Minutes: Motion by Mr. Ruderer to approve July 2025 minutes, seconded by Ms. Brown; approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Report: With Ms. Mullin’s recent resignation Ms. Jones provided overview of three accounts: Levy Fund: \$7694.29, Main Account: \$6941.54 and Donation Account: \$70. Some monies in the main account were donated and will be moved to the donation fund. Motion by Mr. Williams to approve Treasurer Report was seconded by Ms. Brown and approved by acclamation.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor announced a new interim parks director, reminder to turn in your committee reports by Tuesday noon the week of the monthly A&L meeting; email if you need a binder or a nametag; 10/24 Trunk or Treat participate with a decorated trunk, candy donation; Laughter, Lunch and Bingo for seniors is a great monthly, well-attended event with a catered lunch for \$5 also includes prizes and a special guest. There’s a new senior services coordinator for the City: Linda Pritchard.

Council Liaison Report: Mr. Smotherson explained that commissioners can be on the A&L board up to two terms (4 years each), there are exceptions, like Marian Reed, who will reapply to fill Ms. Mullin’s seat. She termed off January 2024. There was a public hearing on September 8 re: the CALOP monies. It was voted to use \$50,000 for a

scholarship at the high school for \$2000/year. Other ideas are being discussed for the remaining monies.

Mr. Ruderer asked if the Council had made a decision re: sponsorships opportunities for A&L. Mr. Smotherson requested an email from Mr. Ruderer to then ask the Council and will get back to A&L with a response.

Committee Reports:

Calendar: Ms. Zelenovich explained that the committee met on 8/4 to discuss 2027 ideas and will share in a future meeting. Looking forward to 2026 proofs.

Finance: No report.

Literary: No report.

Marketing: Ms. Jones reported that they are continuing to look for outlets for marketing. Also discussed Venmo and CashApp with Commerce Bank, but there's a 3% service charge. Zel was suggested. More research to follow.

Public Art: Ms. Hedges mentioned a collaborative mural project likely to happen at Ackert Park with the theme: The History of U. City Celebrated in Pattern. This will be created with several artists. Projected dates: 4/12/26 and reception 4/19/26. Note A&L partnership with WASHU is celebrating 40 years.

Returning Artist: Ms. Fitter provided updates for the upcoming event. Reception was 10/15, now is Tuesday, 10/14. SDUC Communications created an RSVP form and will be sharing the link through their channels. The fall 2025 issue of ROAR includes an RA article and an article will also appear in the Homecoming issue of Pride.

Starlight Concerts: Mr. Massey and his committee met. Shakespeare event went well, excluding the lack of lighting. Working on the upcoming concerts starting this Sunday, 9/14. Artist has been out of touch, but finding other avenues to reach him.

New Business: Ms. Jones reminded the Board to provide meeting absences to Ms. Euell-Taylor. If people want to join the Board, send them to the City's website. Ms. Steely is the only one on the Literary Committee, Ms. Brown agreed to join her and remove herself from Starlight. As Ms. Mullin resigned as treasurer, that position is now open, please consider filling that spot.

Old Business: Ms. Jones asked that you encourage folks to join A&L as two members are terming off soon. Follow A&L on FB. Get in the habit of providing monthly committee reports.

Announcements: Ms. Fitter mentioned a variety of UCHS musical events to attend.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Williams; seconded by Ms. Schaefer approved by acclamation.

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