

11.19.15 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

11/19/2015

4:00 pm to 5:38 pm

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alphonso; Stacie Lee Banks, Susan Clampitt; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; James E. Laws Jr.; MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Maria Hall Rooney; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton; C. Brian Williams

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Victoria Murray Baatin; Erica Busby; Tonya Jordan; Dolores Kendrick; Steven Mazzola; Regan Spurlock

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on November 19, 2015 at 4:00 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Welcome

- Chair Kay Kendall welcomed the new Commissioners and the new Executive Director. Chair Kendall asked each Commissioner to reflect on their first arts experience in the District of Columbia.
- Chair Kendall distributed the FY16 Commissioner Committee assignments to the Commissioners.
- Chair Kendall asked that the Chair of each a committee briefly describe the role of their committee.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the October 22nd Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kay Kendall deferred to Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. for his report.

Executive Director's Report

- Director Espinoza indicated that his official start date would be Monday, November 30, 2015.
- Director Espinoza reported that he had met with the full staff and is looking forward to starting in earnest.
- Director Espinoza thanked Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin for setting up meetings with various members of the City Council and making visits with him.
- Director Espinoza noted that he recently met with the Office of Councilmember Bonds on Wednesday, November 18, 2015.
- Director Espinoza noted that he is savvy with social media and has a focus on raising the brand of the Agency.
- Director Espinoza requested that as Commissioners attend events, that they send photos so that they can be posted on social media.
- Director Espinoza thanked the staff for their perseverance over the past few months.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick thanked the Commission for the special award received at the Mayor's Arts Awards on Thursday, October 29, 2015.

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- Poet Laureate Kendrick distributed a speech that she had recently given at the School Without Walls.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick announced that her new book *Rainbow on Fire* had just been bound. She went on to note that this, a collection of new and old poems, would be her last book.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick announced that she was working to bring poet A. Van Jordan to the District for a reading, hopefully in March.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick announced that George Washington University had recently requested her longhand papers and notes for their collection.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she would be continuing her Poets in Progress (PIP) program at the Folger Theatre in February. She went on to note that the intent was to give exposure and an outlet to poets that have talent but do not yet have a following.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick announced an upcoming youth program in 2016 – noting that poetry and music would be the theme and that she hoped to bring back one of the young poets from the South African delegation whom she had met earlier in the year.

Art All Night Recap

- A short video recap of Art All Night was played.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton noted that businesses in the designated Art All Night neighborhoods reported an increase in revenue due to the festivities.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton noted the great variety of artistic offerings.

Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA)

- Attorney-Advisor Yancey Burns of BEGA gave an ethics presentation with a strong focus on conflict of interest.

Committee Reports

- Grants
 - Commissioner Susan Clampitt asked the grant members present to introduce themselves.
 - Commissioner Clampitt noted that the staff conducts debriefings to help applicants that received declination notices improve future applications.
 - Commissioner Clampitt noted that for fiscal year 2016 835 applications were received; 31 panels were conducted; 250 panelists were utilized which represented 13,000 hours jointly in volunteer service.
 - Commissioner Clampitt noted that fairness and transparency is a top priority in the grants process.
 - Commissioner Clampitt noted that there was an appeal from the ARCH development Corp.
 - Commissioner Clampitt noted that after review by the Grants Committee the declination decision was upheld.
 - Director of Grants, Steven Mazzola noted that the Grants team was in a period of self-assessment. He went on to note that they were applying the “filters” of I.D.E.A. – Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access for future funding opportunities.
 - Director of Grants Mazzola noted that to this end, a new grant category was being developed for fiscal year 2017.
 - Chair Kendall noted that there would be further conversation at the next Commission meeting.
- Public Art
 - Commissioner Alma Gates updated on the progress on the East Capitol Urban Farm.
 - Commissioner Gates reported on the successful installation of the Aurelius Battaglia mural at the Mount Pleasant Library.
 - Commissioner Gates reported that the Agency continues to work with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development at the McMillian Campus for the installation of public art.

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- Commissioner Gates reported on the progress of restoring the Ellington mural on U Street, noted that the goal was to have the mural restored by April in time for Jazz appreciation month and Duke Ellington's birthday.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Commissioner James E. Laws, Jr. noted that Commissioner Elvi Moore is has been nominated to the Executive Committee as Treasurer and that there would be voted on at the next Full Commission meeting.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

Adjournment

- With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.