

04.26.18 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

04/26/2018 4:00pm – 8:37pm

200 I Street SE, Fifth Floor, RM 5009

Washington, DC 20003

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, Chair; Stacie Banks, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Edmund Fleet, Haili Francis, Rhona Friedman, Alma Gates, Darrin Glymph, Miles Gray, Lawrence Green, Maryann Miller, Josef Palermo, Maria Rooney, Jose Uclés, Gretchen Wharton, Chinedu Osuchukwu

Not In Attendance: Commissioner Clampitt

Attending Staff Members: Deputy Director Michael Bigley, Carl Wilson, Ebony Brown, Earica Busby, Lauren Dugas Glover, Dominique Marsalek, Patrick Realiza, Jeffrey Scott, David Markey, Heran Sereke – Brhan, Regan Spurlock

The Full Commission meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) was called to order on April 26, 2018 at 4:11pm, at 200 I St. SE, Room 5009, Washington DC 20003

Adoption of the April Agenda

- Chair Kendall introduced the agenda as presented.
- Commissioner Wharton moved to adopt the agenda presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Glymph.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

Adoption of the March minutes

- Chair Kendall introduced the minutes of the March Full Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Palermo moved to amend the minutes to include the following information:
 - Commissioner Palermo, Friedman, and Wharton had met to begin work on selecting the next Poet Laureate for the District of Columbia prior to the March meeting. The rough draft of the selection plan by the Ad Hoc Poet Laureate Committee was in process.
 - Further information is available in written testimony verbalized by Commissioner Palermo during the March meeting to be included in amended minutes.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn seconded the motion.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall welcomed the Director of the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments (Director Walker) to the meeting and requested he give his report on the Poet Laureate in lieu of a comprehensive Chairperson's report.
- Commissioner Palermo informed the Full Commission of receiving an email from Director Walker officially disbanding the Commission's Ad Hoc Poet Laureate Committee and passed out the aforementioned email communication to Commissioners for transparency as his report from the Ad Hoc Committee.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that according to current District operating procedures, the Office of the Poet Laureate currently carries out its duties with funds and resources from CAH; therefore it is incumbent on MOTA to engage commissioners in their selection process since Commissioners are tasked with oversight of the CAH budget.
- Commissioner Palermo addressed the Full Commission further and went on record to read the following from his correspondence with Director Walker :
 - "My colleagues and I remain optimistic that you'll share our commitment to transparency and actively engage us in shaping the selection process for the next poet laureate, especially since we were excluded from the formation of the draft plan that had originally been sent to your office by Director Espinoza."

- Director Walker thanked Chair Kendall and Commissioners for allowing him to speak to the Full Commission and noted his enthusiasm for seeing the CAH Board.
- Director Walker thanked Commissioners and CAH staff for their work thus far in the Poet Laureate process and announced that the position will be appointed through the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA). Director Walker further explained that previous DC Poet Laureate positions lacked a determined process. As is normal for positions appointed by the Mayor, such as the DC Historian, this position going forward will be filled by MOTA through a public process. Director Walker assured Commissioners that MOTA will involve the public as well as CAH agency stakeholders who have been involved in research and meetings involving the Poet Laureate position.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn inquired with Director Walker as to how to respond to public correspondence on the Poet Laureate position given the change in policy going forward.
- Director Walker requested that Commissioners send interested members of the public to the MOTA website for more information on the position. Eventually the MOTA website will describe the process for application as well as clarify the role and position description so that there is no longer confusion.
- Commissioner Palermo requested that Director Walker make a commitment on record to having members of the public at the table to determine process and selection of the next Poet Laureate.
- Director Walker responded that he would like to include everyone that has been part of the process thus far as well as further expand the conversation to the entire DC community as the position is bigger than CAH and represents the entire District. Director Walker affirmed that the process will include the public as much as is feasible.
- Chair Kendall agreed with Director Walker on the need for a formal process regarding the Poet Laureate position as well as the fact that these conversations surrounding the role thus far have allowed the public and CAH to have a voice and to continue to have a voice.
- Commissioner Miller explained that members of the community have approached her wanting to make recommendations for the next Poet Laureate and questioned who to refer them to.
- Director Walker requested that Commissioners refer interested community members to MOTA by way of website or email.
- Chair Kendall thanked Director Walker for addressing the Commission and introduced Commissioner Osuchukwu as the newest member of the Board.
- Commissioner Osuchukwu addressed the Board to introduce himself as a native Washingtonian, local arts educator at DC charter schools for the past twenty years, and as a resident of Ward 7.
- Following these updates, Chair Kendall gave the following Chairperson's report:
 - A synopsis of CAH activity in the past month including the annual Budget Hearing, which Chair Kendall informed Commissioners went well. Chair Kendall further noted that the response from Council regarding the Budget Hearing was very positive.
 - Chair Kendall requested Committee Chairs give their reports.

Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn reported that there were a number of grants that for various reasons were rescinded and so that funding went back into larger pool.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn explained that at the April Full Commission meeting the budget for Art All Night was enhanced to \$200,000. The Committee decided to not bring further enhancements to Art All Night to the Full Commission for a vote.
- Commissioner Glymph announced that in the Mayor's FY19 budget there is an additional \$16.3 million dollars in funding which would take CAH's funding to \$30.3 million, including ten million potentially for facilities funding.
- Chair Kendall explained that getting payments to grantees can take a long time. Even so, \$12 million worth of grants have been fully executed and sent to the awardees.
- Committee Friedman asked where funding is being repurposed specifically and requested that information by next Full Commission meeting.
- Chair Kendall explained that all funding that shifts from grants to contracts always goes through a voting process.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn noted that funds moved into contracts from 506 are not always voted on or approved by the Board.
- Commissioner Glymph disagreed.

- Finance Analyst Busby disagreed and explained that CAH staff never moves funds from the grants line to contract without Board approval. All funds moved from grants to contracts were approved in the January meeting.

Grants and Panels Committee Report

- Commissioner Wharton reported on the Grants and Panels Committee meetings that occurred in the past month.
- Commissioner Wharton requested that Commissioners turn to Upstart Enhancements in the Grants Binder distributed.
- Commissioner Wharton motioned to accept the recommendations presented.
- Commissioner Uclés seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried: Unanimous.
- Commissioner Wharton requested Commissioners review the proposed changes to the Grants Guidelines.
- Commissioner Glymph explained that the proposed changes are in line with current best practices utilized by other District agencies, such as DMPED and OPGS.
- Commissioner Friedman inquired about whether proposed changes require notice such as with Bylaws.
- Commissioner Glymph explained that these changes do not require advance notice such as with Bylaws.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to accept the proposed changes to the Grants Guidelines. Commissioner Rooney seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried: Unanimous.
- Commissioner Wharton requested Commissioners review the GOS Grants Proposals which were sent previously through email by cohort.
 - Grants Manager Spurlock noted that the recommendations are slightly different than emailed. These recommendations offer a “soft landing” column in the case of possible additional funding from the NEA, etc.
 - Grants Manager Spurlock explained the information presented consists of original recommendations with soft landing option one and soft landing option two.
 - Grants Manager Spurlock noted GOS recommendations for six panels.
 - Panel One: *Chair Kendall and Commissioner Friedman recused.*
 - Commissioner Glymph noted that with soft landing, organizations which struggled in the past year do not have to lose all funding.
 - Commissioner Wharton noted that the Grants Committee recommends soft option one.
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to accept soft landing one. Commissioner Glymph seconded.
 - The motion carried: Unanimous.
 - Panel Two:
 - Grants Manager Spurlock explained that there is no soft option available to this cohort.
 - Chair Kendall requested a motion to accept recommendation.
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn motioned to accept. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.
 - *Commissioner Green abstained from voting.*
 - The motion carried: Unanimous with abstention.
 - Panel Three:
 - Commissioner Ucles motioned to accept recommendations with soft landing one as presented.
 - Commissioner Fleet seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried: Unanimous.
 - Panel Four:
 - *Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn recused herself.*
 - Commissioner Friedman noted that there are three soft landing possibilities and inquired why soft landing one is being recommended by the Grants Committee in particular.
 - Grants Manager Spurlock explained that it was based on organizational needs and grants committee concerns.
 - Commissioner Wharton explained that the soft landing option one allows CAH to give more funding and that is why it is being recommended.
 - Commissioner Glymph pointed to instances of funding increases based on soft landing options for individual organizations.

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- Commissioner Wharton motioned to accept the recommendations as presented with soft landing option one. Commissioner Rooney seconded the motion.
- *The motion carried; Unanimous.*
- Panel Five:
 - *Commissioner Green Recused.*
 - Commissioner Wharton explained the funding recommendation with soft landing number one.
 - Commissioner Miller motion to accept. Commissioner Glymph seconded the motion.
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn noted concerns about funding more than the budget level agreed upon.
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn noted that if the money is available within the budget, then there are no concerns going forward.
 - Deputy Director Bigley explained that this funding will be available.
 - Chair Kendall requested a vote of all in favor.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*
- Panel Six:
 - *Chair Kendall and Commissioner(s) Banks, Rooney, Francis, Green, and Wharton recused.*
 - Commissioner Glymph explained that the Committee recommends the funding with soft landing number one.
 - Grants Manager Spurlock explained that soft landings can be combined.
 - Commissioner Palermo noted that approving soft landing one and three will be an additional \$45,000 for the cohort.
 - Commissioner Friedman noted that this is increasing funding for larger organizations versus smaller organizations.
 - Commissioner Glymph verbalized support of the Grants Committee recommendation for soft landing one.
 - Commissioner Palermo motioned to approve soft landing number one.
 - Commissioner Osuchukwu seconded the motion to approve.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Gates requested that Commissioners review tab seven in the Grants Binder.
- Arts Collection Registrar Humbertson gave a public art presentation on the 31 applications and rankings of the Recycling Truck Call for Proposals.
- Commissioner Rooney requested an explanation of the selection process and make-up of the panel for recommendations.
- Arts Collection Registrar Humbertson reported that CAH worked with DPW throughout the process. The panel included the DPW Director of Communications, as well as their Public Affairs Specialist, a sanitation specialist and a crew member. As a result, the panel was very diverse inclusive, and relevant.
- Arts Collection Registrar Humbertson presented the visual designs of the recommendations.
- Commissioner Miller inquired into who manages the contract for the designs.
- Arts Collection Registrar Humbertson explained that CAH is managing the contract.
- Chair Kendall noted that the designs presented are gorgeous and it is thrilling to have public artwork that everyone can see and that travels to each ward.
- Commissioner Miller noted that it would be great if CAH could host one event where all the designed trucks come together.
- Commissioner Gates presented the alternatives.
- Panel 7:
 - Commissioner Gates motioned to accept the recommended 15 awardees listed, each to receive \$3,500 dollars.
 - Commissioner Friedman seconded the motion.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*
- Commissioner Gates reviewed public art projects presented over the past year at CAH's annual budget hearing.

Events Committee Report

- Commissioner Miller announced to the Full Commission that the Dolores Kendrick Memorial Event was memorable and thanked everyone involved.
- Commissioner Miller noted:

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- SummerSet DC
- Dates: Thursdays , May 10- June 7, 2018
- Time: 12:00PM-2:00PM
- Location: National Mall, TBD
- Address: TBD

- Commissioner Uclés announced that the application deadline for the 33rd Mayor’s Arts Awards is Friday, April 27 2018.

Arts Education Committee Report

- Commissioner Friedman noted:
 - The fourth year of CAH’s Celebrate the Creative Spark! ended on April 13th with 40 residencies taking place in 26 schools for almost 600 students.
 - The final of three Access and Inclusion workshops will take place on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.
 - The Youth Planning Council is currently meeting bi-weekly to craft the shape and content of the summit which is planned for Saturday, June 16th at the National Building Museum.
 - CAH is planning a day-long professional development institute for classroom educators and arts specialists in mid-September to coincide with National Arts in Education Week.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Espinoza was not in attendance.
- Deputy Director Bigley gave a report noting that CAH is hosting public introductory grants workshops in all eight wards throughout the District over the next two weeks.

New and Unfinished Business

- Commissioner Gray requested to make a comment on the record:
 - “I think we need for everyone to feel heard and respected and to feel like they got their point across in a welcoming environment. I will say that people like me gauge their level of interaction based on the level of respect received.”
- Chair Kendall announced the need for an Executive Session Pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(10) for personnel matters. Executive Session occurred without staff present. Full Commission Secretary Rooney took meeting minutes for official record.
- Chair Kendall took the following Roll Call Vote to enter into Executive Session at 6:10PM:
 - Stacie Banks, Yes.
 - Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Yes.
 - Edmund Fleet, Yes.
 - Haili Francis, Yes.
 - Rhona Friedman, Yes.
 - Alma Gates, Yes.
 - Darrin Glymph, Yes.
 - Miles Gray, Yes.
 - Lawrence Green, Yes.
 - Maryann Miller, Yes.
 - Josef Palermo, Yes.
 - Maria Rooney, Yes.
 - Jose Uclés, Yes.
 - Gretchen Wharton, Yes.
 - Chinedu Osuchukwu, Yes.
 - ALL In Favor

Adjournment

- Executive Session ended at 8:35 PM.
- The Full Commission Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.
- The next Full Commission Meeting will be May 24, 2018 at 4:00PM.