

8.17.17 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

3:00pm to 4:00pm

Tele-Meeting

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Stacie Banks, Susan Clampitt, Edmund Fleet, Rhona Wolfe Friedman, Alma Gates, Darrin Glymph, Miles Gray, Lawrence Green, MaryAnn Miller, Elvi Moore, Josef Palermo, Maria Rooney, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Jose Ucles

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Carl Wilson; Jeffrey Scott; Dominique Marsalek; Heran Sereke-Brhan

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on August 17, 3:00 pm through tele-conference (as posted on the Commission website and the District Register).

Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair Kendall called for Roll Call to determine attendance:
 - Banks – Yay
 - Clampitt – Yay
 - Fleet – Yay
 - Friedman – Yay
 - Francis – Not in attendance
 - Gates – Yay
 - Glymph – Yay
 - Gray - Yay
 - Green – Yay
 - Miller - Yay
 - Moore – Yay
 - Palermo – Yay
 - Rooney – Yay
 - Sattarnilasskorn – Yay
 - Ucles – Yay
 - Wharton – Not in attendance
- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller.
 - The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the July minutes

- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the minutes of the July Full Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clampitt.
 - The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall moved to bring immediate attention to voting on grants policy as recommended by the Executive Committee, Grants Committee, and reviewed by Executive Director Espinoza.
- Chair Kendall brought forth the question of including the names of grant applicants in the information emailed to the Full Commission, following the meeting of Grants Committee, before a Full Commission meeting to determine funding.
 - Commissioner Moore expressed that there is no history of names given prior to meetings in her time serving at CAH.
 - Commissioner Gates requested that consistency in policy be taken into account and questioned whether or not Conflict of Interest forms (outlined earlier in grants policy) is necessary.
 - Commissioner Glymph explained that he would like time to research the organization beforehand.
 - Commissioner Miller expressed concern that some of the considerations, such as researching the organization beforehand, are not really part of a Commissioner's role at CAH. Decisions made during meetings should be based on the application presented and the information presented.

8.17.17 Minutes



- Commissioner Glymph expressed concern about the image of the agency and expressed his opinion that the role of a board member is partially to ensure the agency is protected from potential issues.
- Commissioner Clampitt expressed that the new requirements from the District already work to address legal concerns and staff work to address issues through the application process.
- Commissioner Friedman expressed that it is within the rights of board members to request any information ahead of time.
- Executive Director Espinoza agreed that the Grants Committee is given the ability to view this information ahead of time.
- Chair Kendall explained that the system in place purposefully assigns Commissioners to specific committees related to their area of interest and experience. The work of Committees should be respected and decisions should be made based on their recommendations.
- Commissioner Glymph inquired about the reason for barring a Commissioner from accessing names of applicants in advance.
- Commissioner Moore responded by stating that trust in the process, panels, staff, and the Grants Committee is necessary.
- Commissioner Gates explained that Commissioners were once able to see the names of applicants throughout the entirety of the process in times past. At the same time, we should trust the process, panels, and staff.
- Commissioner Rooney expressed the need to trust the application process. Additionally, with all of the new policies in place, the process is clean.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn explained that by nature of the role of committees, Commissioners within all of the committees are privy to information ahead of time. She stated that wanting to know information ahead of time isn't a compelling reason to change the policy.
- Chair Kendall motioned for a roll call vote on whether the Full Commission receives grant applicant names ahead of their meetings to determine grant awards. The motion was seconded. The following roll call vote occurred:
 - Commissioner Banks: Nay
 - Commissioner Clampitt: Nay
 - Commissioner Fleet: Nay
 - Commissioner Friedman: Yay
 - Commissioner Gates: Nay
 - Commissioner Glymph: Yay
 - Commissioner Gray: Abstain
 - Commissioner Green: Nay
 - Commissioner Miller: Nay
 - Commissioner Moore: Nay
 - Commissioner Palermo: Nay
 - Commissioner Rooney: Nay
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn: Nay
 - Commissioner Ucles: Nay
 - Commissioner Kendall: Abstain
 - *The motion to allow applicant names to be released before Full Commission meetings did not carry (11 -2).*
- Chair Kendall introduced discussion on conflict of interest language within the new policy and presented a suggested edit to the policy to insert term "recuse" in it.
 - Commissioner Miller, Clampitt, and Ucles agreed with this statement.
 - Chair Kendall asked if any Commissioner disagreed with this change. No Commissioner disagreed.
- Chair Kendall introduced discussion on the policy recommendation from Grants Committee. Grants Committee suggested that they be allowed to view the names of applicants before making recommendations to the Full Commission.
 - Commissioner Miller explained that if everything is blind, there is no concern.
 - Commissioner Glymph agreed and stated that if everything is blind, there is no concern.
 - Commissioner Friedman agreed and stated that if everything is blind, there is no concern.
 - Commissioner Clampitt expressed that it is best if the process is entirely blind. However, it is helpful to see the names when making adjustments. Those adjustments usually have to do with making sure all wards are being represented.
 - Chair Kendall explained that part of this recommendation was to make knowledge between staff and Commissioners understood.
 - Commissioner Glymph reinforced the idea that a blind process alleviates concern for conflict of interest.
- Chair Kendall motioned for a roll call vote to determine if the Grants Committee should be allowed to see names of applicants. The motion was seconded. The following roll call vote occurred:

8.17.17 Minutes



- Commissioner Banks – Nay
- Commission Clappitt – Yay
- Commissioner Fleet – Yay
- Commissioner Friedman – Nay
- Commissioner Gates – Yay
- Commissioner Glymph – Nay
- Commissioner Gray – Abstain
- Commissioner Green – Yay
- Commissioner Miller – Nay
- Commissioner Moore – Yay
- Commissioner Palermo – Nay
- Commissioner Rooney – Yay
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn – Nay
- Commissioner Ucles – Yay
- Chair Kendall: Abstain
 - *The motion carried. (7-6)*
- Chair Kendall motioned for discussion on grant allocation recommendations as presented.
 - Chair Kendall explained that the organizations presented held a previous unique relationship with CAH. In the next fiscal year, these organizations will apply for grants through a competitive process.
 - Commissioner Green requested clarity on the information presented.
 - Chair Kendall explained that sometimes it is not possible for organizations to spend all of the money they are awarded in the time frame presented. The funds are then reallocated.
 - Commissioner Friedman inquired as to the recommendation and wondered if the Director considered other cohorts who applied for grants in FY17.
 - Executive Director Espinoza explained that these recommended organizations received funds noncompetitively in the past for many years. This is a practice the agency will discontinue in FY18, and moving them to a competitive process has been a major adjustment for them. He stated that offering additional support to project grants was not feasible in the time frame allotted by fiscal year end. It was also not considered a best practice in grant making. Grant enhancements to organizations that receive general operating support are manageable and responsible. This cohort was therefore identified as manageable given the time constraints.
- Chair Kendall motioned for a roll call vote on the grant allocation recommendations presented by Executive Director Espinoza. The motion was seconded. The following roll call vote occurred:
 - Commissioner Banks – Yay
 - Commissioner Clappitt – Yay
 - Commissioner Fleet – Yay
 - Commissioner Friedman – Yay
 - Commissioner Gates – Yay
 - Commissioner Glymph – Nay
 - Commissioner Gray – Abstain
 - Commissioner Green – Yay
 - Chair Kendall – Yay
 - Commissioner Miller – Yay
 - Commissioner Moore – Yay
 - Commissioner Palermo – Yay
 - Commissioner Rooney – Yay
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn – Yay
 - Commissioner Ucles – Yay
 - *The motion carried. (14-1)*

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:24PM.