

# 12.13.18 Minutes



## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

12/13/18 3:30pm – 6:00pm  
200 I Street SE, Large CAH Conference Room  
Washington, DC 20003

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, Chair, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Alma Gates, MaryAnn Miller, Jose Uclés, Chinedu Osuchukwu, Gretchen Wharton, Darrin Glymph, Edmund Fleet, Quanice Floyd, Josef Palermo, and Rhona Friedman

**Not In Attendance:** Commissioner(s) Maria Rooney, Miles Gray, and Haili Francis

**Attending CAH Staff Members:** Interim Executive Director Angie Gates, Deputy Director Michael Bigley, Kennisha Rainge (Chief of Internal Affairs), Ebony Brown (Events Manager), Earica Busby (Financial Analyst), Lauren Glover (Public Art Manager), Patrick Realiza (Social Media Specialist), Jeffrey Scott (Chief of External Affairs), David Markey (Arts Education Coordinator), Heran Sereke-Brhan (Grants Manager), Melvin Witten (Legislative and Policy Advisor)

**Attending Public Members:** JR Russ, Peggy McClone (Washington Post), Miriam Dixon (The Heritage Signature Chorale)

The Full Commission meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) was called to order on July 18, 2018 at 4:00pm, at 200 I St. SE, Room 4019, Washington, DC 20003

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## Public Comment Section

### Public Member Present: JR Russ

- I worked here at the Commission first as a Grants and Legislative Affairs Assistant; then as a Grants Co-manager for the Artist Fellowship Program, with Regan Spurlock; and finally as the Online Marketing Manager, working with Jeffrey Scott and Teresa Boersma, up the summer of 2015.
- It's been roughly two and a half years since the last time I provided public comment, and it's always a treat to be back not as staff, but simply a DC artist, resident, and native. I actually grew up at 605 G St SW, where my parents still live, just about 8 blocks to the west.
- Whether you knew me before today or not, as I mentioned, I was born and raised in DC. My first artistic endeavor was as a professional boy soprano with the Washington National Cathedral for three years, during which I would end up singing Justice Thurgood Marshall's funeral, back in 1993.
- In the time since then, I've continued to serve on the Board of Dance Place and I've joined the Grants Committee for the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. I've also continued to attend Burning Man each fall since. In fact, as a member of the local community, I was invited to join a Symposium at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum, about Burning Man, and joining a program which included the 5 remaining Burning Man founders, various staff and artists from around the country, and me doing 15 minutes of storytelling. I've attended their past three Global Leadership Conferences, I helped organize the two Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conferences so far, and most recently I've accepted an offer to join the roster of DC Regional Contacts, who act as liaisons between the local Burner community and the global one as well as the Burning Man organization in San Francisco.
- Professionally, I most recently wrapped up three years at the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates. During my time there I helped pen a letter regarding the Jazz Preservation, Education, Promulgation and Performance Artist Act of 2016 from DCAYA urging caution in legislation that seemed to show unprecedented preference for one art form over another, and possibly created new programming which was not only redundant regarding existing programming, but may even selectively pull from what can be a very lean funding pool, for the number of organizations and the size of grants the Commission awards. And I was thrilled to join the Community Arts Team, for Any Given Child DC.
- But I digress. The last time I came here, I touched on hoping the strategic plan would do more than gather dust on the shelf. And now we have a Cultural Plan for the city that seems all but lost in limbo. And then most recently, the Grant Amendment

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which came and went in a manner so swift that one marveled that the government can move so quickly, so decisively, when...properly motivated. And now this bill that aims to turn the Commission into an advisory body. Which if I were to come all this up, I would say that the fundamental crisis is a crisis of trust.

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## Adoption of the December Agenda

- Chair Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:00pm
- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the agenda as presented.
- Commissioner Friedman moved to adopt the agenda presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Banks.
  - *The motion carried: Unanimous.*

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## Adoption of the October minutes

- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the meeting minutes of the June Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Palermo moved to adopt the minutes as presented, Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
  - *The motion carried: Unanimous.*

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## Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall welcomed everyone and stated that she would be saving her comments for later if it's appropriate and allow the Executive Director to give her report.
- Chair Kendall asked Interim Executive Director Gates to give her report.

## Executive Director's Report

- Interim Director Gates stated hello and she hopes everyone was doing well. She has a few video presentations so she asked Patrick to start the videos. (Videos can be found on the CAH website)
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that the staff celebrated the 50th Anniversary/Birthday on November 29th. So CAH celebrated most of the day. She wanted to start with a couple of videos that were produced and distributed publicly.
- Chair Kendall stated that the videos were very nice.
- Interim Executive Director Gates Okay, thank you. So, thank you for grabbing the lights.
- So, a couple of other things that took place on the 29th was a mural that was done. I don't know if you've had a chance to walk the main area of the agency, but there was a beautiful mural that was done with one of our local artists. And it highlights and celebrates the 50th, the 50 years.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that what she likes most about the mural is it presents the different areas of the arts and is very well done. It's also interesting, for the longest time that was just a blank canvas where the mural is now. She invited everyone to definitely take a look if they haven't already.
  - There was a DJ that day, so we did a lot of dancing, celebrating. It was like an open house. Several commissioners came by and we're very thankful for you coming by and stopping by for our anniversary.
  - And that same day they were also doing like an open enrollment. And so, there were some individuals that just stopped in from that and this is where customer service starts to come into play. They're like, well, can we stop by, and asked what the agency did. Some people really found out about the agency for the first time, that particular day.
  - They were here to talk about AFLAC and a few other things, but learned about arts in the process.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that there is also a card that we're going to be asking everyone to sign. Our intention is over the next course of, the course of the year, is when we're at our various events, arts and humanities events and if we're hosting events here at the agency to give everyone an opportunity to sign and give us birthday wishes, anniversary wishes.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she has an ask for the Commissioners, she thinks that it's very important that their voice is heard in this process. So she has asked the Office of Cable Television Film Music and Entertainment to set aside some days where there will be an opportunity for the Commissioners to share their words, share their remarks about the Commission on the Arts and Humanities and what the agency has represented to them and their experience with the creativities in the community.



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- So, we'll probably identify about three days to do these testimonials. After a Board meeting would be a good time to have a videographer setup here just for convenience purposes, we'll also identify a day over at the OCTFME studios, and probably have a backup day so the Commissioners can provide, in the production industry we call it testimonials.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that one of the next things that she wants to talk about is the CAH budget. So far, CAH has been preparing, oddly enough, for FY20. She had a budget meeting last month and the whole purpose was to start talking about FY20, so those discussions are actually underway.
  - But we have the approved budget for FY19, which is \$31,367,000. \$25,470,650 are dedicated to grants.
  - Thus far \$6.1 million has been executed with purchase orders being established. And thus far, \$1.7 million has been paid out and distributed via checks to grantees.
  - So there will be a finance component of the meeting. So Earica will review the finance component along with Cicie to further discuss.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that another update is the job positing for the executive director has closed. That is a priority for the administration to look at bringing that to a close, so the job positing is officially closed. She knows they're expediting that search to have that completion done soon.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that the last thing she wanted to mention was that earlier in the week on Monday, there was an event with Victoria Rowell.
  - It was unique because it's rare that the Office of Cable Television Film Music and Entertainment, the Commission on Arts and Humanities, the Deputy Mayor's Office of Greater Economic Opportunity, Child and Family Services, would actually be able to come together and partner on executing an event.
  - Interim Executive Director Gates stated to Commissioner Wharton that she hopes it was as touching for her as it was for personally, but the opioid addiction was the topic of a film screening. The film is entitled Jacqueline and Jilly.
  - The conversation initially started with a visit from Victoria Rowell, which a lot of you may know her from Young and the Restless. But she stopped by the OCTFME Office on a day when the power actually had gone out. It was probably maybe about 60 degrees in the building.
  - But her passion about this film project was amazing. I had no idea that particular, at that particular time, the community investment, the community involvement.
  - That was the first time that I ever thought about what happens after the credits roll on a film. I think so often we're focused on the product itself.
  - But, what I witnessed after the end of that film screening was the plethora of resources that the District of Columbia offers. Not only its residents, the hotline. In just the services that go beyond what any of us may talk about or discuss on a day-to-day basis.
  - But, the art form itself is what led everyone together. So, I just wanted to talk about that a little bit and particularly thank all the agencies that were involved. And that's a rare opportunity, but it was done successfully. That's all I have.
- Chair Kendall stated that was great and that it was time to move onto the Committee reports.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Finance Report to be given by Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn.

### Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that before she gives her financial report she just wanted to say on the record that kind of a big thing happened at the Commission a few weeks ago and she thinks that while the situation itself has been addressed, like we, as a body, haven't addressed it, and she's a little bit disappointed that it hasn't been brought up or even acknowledged by Director Gates or Chair Kendall, in your both of their reports. That says to her that we're just going to sweep it under the rug and keep going as business as usual. And she thinks that that's really unfair not to address it.
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn that if she wanted to bring up something that's not dealing with the financial report, to do so during the old or new business portion of the meeting.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she thinks the point she is trying to make is that this is something that's important enough that she's using her Committee report time to talk about it.

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- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks it's important and she would be happy to address it in old and new business, but not in finance. And we want to stick to the agenda that we voted on.
- Commissioner Palermo asked was there a reason why we weren't able to ask questions of the Executive Director following her report.
  - Chair Kendall responded, no, but can you ask questions if you have questions for her at the old and new business part.
- Commissioner Palermo asked was Interim Executive Director Gates going to stay in the meeting.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she was going to stay until the grants and then excuse herself.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated so she's saying that she won't stay.
- Commissioner Palermo asked Interim Executive Director Gates was she going to be present for the New and Old Business Portion of the meeting.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that if anyone had a question about her report she would be more than happy to answer it.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the question on the table would be why was the information Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn mentioned not stated in the Executive Director report?
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that when a problem is resolved, normally you don't have to go back and address it. At the end of the day, if you're referring to the amendment, that was a concern that was voiced, it was a concern that was heard loud and clear. But more importantly, it was a concern that was addressed. Now, I don't know how you all would typically function, but when a problem is addressed, resolved, and you're talking about something from 30 days ago, we're 30 days beyond that. The voice of the community was heard. We're going to continue to stand on D.C. values knowing that the issue has been addressed.
- Commissioner Palermo asked why it is that it's never communicated to the Commissioners when a problem arises.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated the question that was asked was answered. If there needs to be a discussion referencing old business, then there will be a chance for dialogue during that portion of the agenda.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that his follow-up question is, why has there not been any communication from Interim Executive Director Gates with the Commissioners about how the amendment was going to be addressed?
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated, once again, you're focused on something in the past.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he was still asking a question.
- Interim Executive Director Gates said Okay.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the question that he has been trying to ask is, if you were planning to resolve this, why the steps weren't communicated to the Commissioners. There has been no communication whatsoever about this particular issue with the CAH, who do have obligations to the public. We are here and present, and the public addresses us during the public comment periods. So my question to you is, why were we not engaged in any step of the way?
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that at the end of the day, as the Interim Executive Director, time was of the essence to discuss and address a matter, not the time to convene a meeting but a time address the concerns of the constituents and the creatives. So the due diligence is not just on the Commissioners, okay. The due diligence is on every single member at the Commission on Arts and Humanities, including the Interim Executive Director and what I think is key is moving as fast and swiftly as possible. I'm not going to slow down a process to get resolved. When the people's voices are heard, it's got to be dealt with, which is what occurred. So convening a meeting to discuss was not feasible, discussions can clearly go on 30 days later. We're still discussing something 30 days later; we have a due diligence to focus on the fact that it's been resolved.
- Commissioner Palermo asked why he wasn't able to get any answers from Interim Executive Director Gates or members of the Staff in regards to this. I think that speaks to a larger issue that all of us have had in terms of communication with the staff.
- Chair Kendall asked if she could speak.
- Interim Executive Director Gates said sure.
- Chair Kendall stated that there are two issues, and one of them is, we were all concerned about the amendment and the possible ramifications. And as Interim Executive Director Gates just said, the community spoke, the agency heard, everything was taken back. So actions really speak louder than words in this case. They took the action. I think you're referring now to the communication that we might have expected or been used to. And I think that that is something to talk

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about in an ongoing way, but I also know that right now I think it's beating a dead horse because there's not much real point in it. We'll have a new Executive Director who will be here full-time. That might give us an opportunity to have more communication than what we're used to. I think it's been difficult in the current circumstances. And I just prefer, personally, I'm very comfortable with looking toward the future and not dwelling on.

- Commissioner Palermo stated sure, okay.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks that the Commissioners should have heard about this.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the bigger point here is the accountability piece and ensuring that there is accountability so that this does not happen again.
- Chair Kendall stated that it won't, we've all learned from this and she feels pretty certain that that won't.
- Interim Executive Director Gates that what we all need to focus on is D.C. values and people that we serve. We just spent the past few minutes focused strictly on the Commissioners and strictly on why the Commissioners were not informed. It's about us. And this is what D.C. values is the primary focus. Once we realize it's not we, it's not me, it's us, it's the people we're serving. When we have heard from the people and have addressed their concerns and that's where we need to begin.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that we, the Commissioners represent the people.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he gets that you're trying to characterize this as like us having personalities and maybe that's the issue.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that we just spent a few minutes talking how us, how we, us. So I just, let's make sure we stay focus on D.C. values.
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Palermo to hold one second, Commissioner Ucles had something to say and after that she wants to move on to the finance committee report.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated yes, we need to too.
- Commissioner Ucles said thank you. I think, just so you know, we understand the fact that we stand with that part. You also have to know how it was done in the past. Normally when there has been a crisis, which this sort of was, normally he finds that we don't all meet. For example, the Chair knows and she gets in touch with us. And I know it's not about us, it's not about me, it should be about us. But, it's as we are your ears and your eyes out in the public, people ask us. The only thing his Colleagues are trying to say, is that there should have been, once solved, I mean, that's what the CAH team and Interim Executive Director Gates are here for, an e-mail sent at least, coming from Interim Executive Director Gates through Kennisha Rainge, saying, this came, this is what we're going to do and then we have an answer. That's all. It's very simple.
- Commissioner Palermo agreed with Commissioner Ucles.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that like Chair Kendall stated, it is about communication.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated okay.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that it was solved it and he was very proud, thank God. It was just later, but he thinks we could be a team. It was about us and the public, the Commissioners are out there and hear it all. We found out through a newspaper. And then we all supported it, it got pulled out. Obviously it wasn't what we should stand for. The community is all about everyone, not censoring. We got it. Just a little communication would have helped, that's how it's worked in the past.
- Interim Executive Director Gates said thank you for your thoughts and opinions.
- Chair Kendall asked who the visitors in the room are and if they would introduce themselves.
- Miriam Dixon stated, sure. She is with Heritage Signature Chorale, a choral singing group and just coming to observe.
- Chair Kendall thanked her.
- Peggy McClone stated that she covers the arts for the Washington Post.
- Chair Kendall thanked her and asked Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn to give the finance report.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she was just notified by Earica Busby that there appears to be some available balances and decisions that need to be made about what to do with those overages. That's all I have at the present so I'm guessing that will be discussed at the next finance meeting with suggestions from, or recommendations from staff.
- Chair Kendall stated that at the finance committee meeting we talked about a few highlights that Earica Busby might go over.
- Earica Busby stated to turn to the first spreadsheet in tab 2. It starts with, getting to know our new budget. The first page is our budget as a whole. We have our local funds, dedicated taxes. As you can see, we received our federal funding so it's been added to our budget. You can see our expected purchase revenue and our operating intra District funds. Our total budget currently now is \$32,080,500 because we added in our intra District as well as our federal funding.

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- As you can see here, this spreadsheet is as of November the 30th. So, in the Grants 9 you can see that we processed over \$3.1 million in purchase orders.
- We have \$1.4 million pending, however, since then we have been submitting requisitions, and we submitted about \$6.2 million in requisitions. We've paid out \$1.7 million in payments to vendors. So, we're picking up the pace in processing our requisitions.
- All of the highlighted areas, what you will see on the page, is where subsidies and transfers, is that is considered our grant funding. Is there any questions?
- Chair Kendall stated that she wanted to point out, the change in this form that you're looking at, is the local funds. Now those local funds are divided between local and dedicated. She asked Earica Busby was if the dedicated section is a new section for us?
- Earica Busby stated yes. In the previous meeting we didn't have our federal funds, but it's been added to the budget.
- Chair Kendall stated that she appreciates that the sections are highlighted because otherwise it's a little confusing since it's for four different sections. But everything highlighted goes into the grants pot.
- Commissioner Friedman asked will there be any money left over that we'll be able to spend.
- Earica Busby asked everyone to look at the first page in the binder. So, you have the pre-budget for each grant program, executed grant, pending grant and available funds. On Line 2, we have a rescinded grant for \$14,968 under Arts Education.
- Commissioner Friedman asked where/when that money is going to be re-purposed.
- Earica Busby stated that it's available now and up for discussion. We discussed in the last finance meeting, a conversation will be had with the grants committee and the staff will make some recommendations.
- Commissioner Friedman asked could it stay in arts education.
- Earica Busby stated that it is not her decision.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if technically it could.
- Earica Busby responded yes.
- Earica Busby asked everyone to look at Line Number 8, we have a rescinded grant for \$3500. Also, Line Number 10 for facilities and building we have another rescinded grant for \$57,500. If you look at Line Number 11, for general operating support, we had two rescinded grants. One for \$5,480 and \$20,720.
- Commissioner Miller asked Earica to clarify the term rescinded.
- Earica Busby stated that rescinded means the organization has declined to receive the funds due to receiving more money from one program than the other and they decided not to take this particular one or if an organization cannot spend all the funds awarded.
- Commissioner Ucles asked could we ask about the National Building and why they rescinded their funds.
- Chair Kendall said yes, of course.
- Earica Busby said that she's sure we have an explanation.
- Michael Bigley stated that he has an explanation. They were under the facilities and buildings grant budget line. So they opted to apply for a budget enhancement grant instead as you cannot apply to both.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that was okay.
- Michael Bigley stated that we would be debating today.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that that is great; we get to spread more to people out there.
- Chair Kendall stated that there are good reasons in most cases.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that organizations sometimes don't have matching funds.
- Chair Kendall stated so there is that \$125k that you see which will be addressed along the way.
- Earica Busby stated yes. On Line Number 36 we have \$125,270 available that hasn't been obligated. So it brings our total available balance that we need to obligate, \$127,438.
- Chair Kendall asked were there any questions for finance. If not then we would move to go to grants and panels.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she was excusing herself. If she doesn't see doesn't see you all before the New Year, may you have a very happy, prosperous new year and may you have as much happiness as your heart can hold.
- Chair Kendall stated, oh, very nice and asked for the grants report.

### Grants and Panels Committee Report

- Commissioner Wharton stated that the Commissioners on the telephone will be able to see when we put the spreadsheet up without the actual grantees' award winners' name listed.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that Heran Sereke-Brhan is passing out the documents that reveal the actual grantee names. Only the people in the room will be able to see the names because, remember, this is not public information until the awardees are notified by the CAH team and once we get into specific discussion, if you would like to ask something about a specific one, please refer to the number. The ranking number versus the name.
- Chair Kendall stated that this confidential information so please keep that in mind.
- Commissioner Miller stated that the two visitors in the room do not get a copy.
- Chair Kendall stated to remember to not mention any names.
- Commissioner Wharton asked if she could finish her statement. When we finish, if we're talking about a specific one, talk about the rank. And Number 2 for instance, if you're talking about the first one, say rank number 5.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that the first one is the general operating support, Washington Bach Consort appeal.
  - Some of you may remember, some of you may not, but just as a reminder, we did have a soft landing from last year. Once we changed general operating support, so many people, grantees, received lots of money and then we cut that. So we all voted to have a soft landing for people, so it wouldn't be going from a lot of money to nothing. So, when we say, talk about soft landing, I just want to remind you that was the previous discussion. The Washington Bach Consort requested an appeal to their FY19 grant award amount of \$26,400 based on the review of the panelist's comments. Bach Consort notes that one panelist may have unduly influenced outcome of grant award. This points out two things. Number one, it's really, really good that we have our staff that's able to meet with grantees when they have questions about their awards. And this is proof and point that it really does help. Bach Consort said that after the review they found a drop, we found, Arts and Humanities Commission, found a drop in the panelists' scores from a preliminary score of 72. Remember when we're going through panelists, panels, there's a preliminary score that the panelists have already input into the system. Once we have the panel, the panelists vote again. So the preliminary score initially was 72.5. And that score dropped to 50. And last year, Washington Bach Consort received \$66,000 in grants. In FY19, due to the adjustment for stability, or that soft landing that I was mentioning, they were slated to receive \$26,400 in grants. The recommendation was to use the preliminary score and not the final score to retroactively be applied so that they would receive the \$51,000.
  - She personally chaired this particular panel and has absolutely no regret, and made the statement to this particular panelist that, because when she was talking it was personal. She wasn't really looking at the requirements, she wasn't really addressing the things that need to be addressed when you're voting. And so she thinks because of this one panelist and her personal view of this, it brought the score down. So when this was presented to the grants committee we did agree that we should increase that funding.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she has emphasized on every panel, and I think it's very important for everybody to recognize the fact, that when you're evaluating a grant, it is based on what you have in front of you; it is not based on, one, your history or your knowledge previously or your feelings about that organization from the past. There have been a number of occasions and panels where people have talked about things that have nothing to do with the grant that was right in front of them. That's what they're being asked, the panelists are being asked to evaluate.
- Commissioner Wharton stated so this is typical, but this is an example that will show us every time that we need to, we, where we here, the Staff and the Commissioners together and we're sitting on these panels not to let something like this happen.
- Chair Kendall asked do we want to make a recommendation to vote on your recommendation.
- Chair Kendall stated Okay, so then, we need a motion to agree with the grants panel that the general operating support for Washington Bach Consort be changed to be increased to \$51,000.
- Commissioner Friedman moved the motion.
- Commissioner Miller seconded the motion
- Chair Kendall asked all those in favor?
  - None Opposed

- **Vote Carried Unanimously**
- Commissioner Wharton asked to move on to the FY19 Facilities and Building grants awardee, Moveius Request. As part of their FY19 facilities and buildings grant, Moveius has been award \$65,900 for the purchase of lighting, speakers, I'm reading this because I want to take you through it as we went through it so we're not glossing over anything. Speakers, safety rails, seating and soundproof door. They're requesting to modify their grant and use \$50,000 of the \$65,900, towards exploring purchase of the building that they currently occupy, Dance Loft on 14th Street, Northwest in Ward 4. It's a unique opportunity to support the growth of an arts organization in Ward 4. If purchase does not move forward, the entire fund will be returned and used for provisional intent of their proposal. If the purchase moves forward, the remaining funds will be used for the original proposed project. And they submitted the revised budget to reflect this plausible change. Now, the proposed \$50,000 is to be placed in an escrow account by Dance Place. Well, we can't keep the money, is what we thought we might be able to do. We went through the entire discussions about whether or not the government could hold the money, but that would not be an acceptable proposal as part of their bid. So they actually have to have it, but they are going to be able to keep it in an escrow account.
- Commissioner Friedman asked for how long.
- Commissioner Wharton stated six months.
- Earica Busby stated that it will be used within the fiscal year.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if the staff has any indication of how Moveius plans to finalize the purchase of this building.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that they are going to have, they have a close bid process right now. Is the best way I can describe it, a close bid process right now. And we'll see how that, how far that goes before it goes.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that she provided verbal confirmation that they kick in the other half of the deposit.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if there is precedence for this in terms of other organizations.
- Chair Kendall asked Commissioner Wharton to make a motion and second it before we have the discussion.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she wants to be careful about precedence that we set. About the goal of applying for grants for one purpose and then, while certainly purchasing the building is within sort of the guidelines and what we support, it's just if you're applying for one grant and you get an excess and then you decide you want to redirect funds somewhere else, I'm just concerned about what kind of precedence that sets and if other organizations perhaps get wind then this could just potentially be a headache for staff.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that it's in the facilities and buildings grant. She understands what Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn is saying perfectly because it's like, okay, if I get this money, I want to use it for something else, okay. But it's within the umbrella of the facilities.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked was it made clear at the time initially.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that the organization didn't have the opportunity and they're leasing the facility right now.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn said okay, and now they're in the process of trying to purchase it.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that normally you would be further along. If you get the FAB grant, you'd be further along with the planning and the bidding process.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that they didn't know it was going to be offered for sale.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if we sense that there is a good chance that they'll be successful or are we just winging a prayer.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that there's a good chance but to be safe, the money will be kept in an escrow account early on if they, you know, after the due diligence. If they are not a good match or can't afford the building or somehow fall out of the bidding process, the money comes back to them and they can return to the project.
- Commissioner Palermo asked to clarify that if they do change this grant to the terms that they're asking for and then the sale of the building doesn't go through, does that mean that they don't get access to these funds at all, it comes back to us.



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- Commissioner Wharton stated no. Well, initially they would use it for the project. Because they still have the programs going on. Well, for the program, not the project. The program. The program is still going to be going on.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn said that Commissioner Wharton just stated that this was a facilities grant.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that it is a facilities grant.
- Commissioner Wharton said that it's a facilities grant. When I say program, as part of the facilities they can ask for different types of things for the facility. Whether it's speakers, HVAC, railings, soundproof doors; which include the original project ask request. So, they've actually been leasing this and they've actually put some of their own money that they've raised into preserving it, even though they haven't had it before. I guess the owner is finally deciding to offer it to them.
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Wharton that we should make a motion before we continue discussion.
- Chair Kendall asked will someone make a motion to grant them this opportunity to put it into escrow.
- Commissioner Wharton made the motion
- Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
- Chair Kendall asked if there were any more discussions before we have the vote about the possibilities.
- Chair Kendall carried the vote
  - Non opposed
  - Vote carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she is glad that they agreed to that one. This took two grants meetings for the discussions to get through.
- Commissioner Wharton stated to move onto the budget enhancement grants now. There are fourteen categories and she asked for it to be displayed on the screen as she wants to refer to the sheet that says budget enhancement grant panel categories. Refer to the handout for names.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that the narrative and the Word document is in front of the Commissioners, and this is sort of the spreadsheet. If it's helpful to see it this way.
- Michael Bigley stated that the Commissioners on the phone had the materials sent to them in advance.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that for number 1, she is going to be reading from the items that were part of the legislation for budget enhancement grant. Number one was \$50,000, was noted to provide support for an organization preserving the history in the District of Columbia for a program engaging students to research the history of their schools and produce a museum quality exhibit.
  - There actually was only one applicant, and that's why you see the Number 7 overall, square 7425. 74.25. That would be actually the awardee for that particular grant.
- Chair Kendall asked could they all just go through these, all but two of them are just one applicant, and vote all at once at the end.
- Commissioner Friedman stated yes, let's do that.
- Chair Kendall stated that she would like to get a consensus about whether you want to vote on them one-by-one.
- Commissioner Ucles said we could vote at the end. Let's just go through it because, it just makes it so long to propose because it's somewhat competitive.
- Commissioner Wharton said yes, and we'll talk about each one as we go through it.
  - Number 2 is \$75,000 to support an initiative to present the East Coast Premiere of the newly commissioned work with a week of related free community engagement events.
  - There were five applicants and you can see the scores.
- Commissioner Friedman asked of the 5 applicants is the request 75 each or 75 total. Is the \$75k on the table for the whole category.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that there was \$75,000 total for the grant.
- Commissioner Friedman asked how is this going to be split, because someone got a score of 57.55 and the other one has a score of 76. So why would it be split equally.
- Michael Bigley stated that we're selecting one applicant.
- Chair Kendall stated that the way it was written is it's supposed to go to one organization.

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- Chair Kendall asked what the recommendation is.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that it goes to Number 5 overall who came in 1<sup>st</sup> in this category. Now, here's the difference. Number 5 overall only requested \$39k of the \$75k that was allocated. Oh, the one point, I'm sorry, to be stand corrected. We're only getting into the top one because the legislation, over here on the left, does not indicate a first and a second and a third. It only indicates Number.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that means that they only requested \$39,000. Where is the rest of the money from \$75,000 to \$39,000 go.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that \$75,000 is going to Number 5 overall who got first place in this category.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that they don't need that much, wait a second. Let me just get my question in my mind straight.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that they're saying they're giving them all the money even though that's not what they requested.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that the legislation mandated that the entire amount go to one recipient.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he thinks it underscores the absurdity of this legislation.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that maybe then we shouldn't, we should abstain from giving them this money until this is figured out.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that we need to find out whether or not they can actually use the \$75,000.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if there is really a way you say in the instance where an organization does not require the full amount and a second organization scored quite high that we would like to share the wealth. I mean, isn't that the point of this body.
- Michael Bigley stated this organization may have written the grants. We don't know because we're not asking them these probing questions. They may have written the grant thinking I have to match this money and it was evident in what they put forward, that they were proposing a match, which is not required towards this grant. So essentially, the \$39,000 that they requested is half their project. And so, the thought was that us giving them the full amount that was in the legislation would meet the mandates of them completing the project.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked is that your opinion or is that what you know about this decision.
- Michael Bigley stated that it's looking at the numbers and seeing how much they asked for and how much the project budget is for.
- Commissioner Wharton stated they could have thought since the project budget was more they would have to match it.
- Commissioner Friedman asked why are we assuming what they could have thought.
- Commissioner Wharton said the question needs to be asked whether or not the project budget is \$75,000.
- Michael Bigley stated Well, what does the project is \$80,000.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that the question remains why did they only ask for \$39,000?
- Commissioner Friedman stated that it could be that they could get it and they didn't need it, it's would then get rescinded. But you can't rescind it because the legislation says it's all or nothing.
- Commissioner Wharton says, no, what it says is, and I'm quoting from the legislation, support an initiative to present the East Coast Premiere of a newly commissioned work with a week of related free community engaging events and an amount not to exceed \$75,000. Not to exceed.
- Chair Kendall stated so, if their project is \$80,000 and we give them the \$75,000 that's from the legislation and they said, we don't need it, it would be rescinded back to us. But we are expecting that they would use it all toward the project.
- Commissioner Wharton stated yes, because their budget purports, their project budget is \$80,000.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated to Rhona's point though, we don't need to assume that. If they requested \$39,000 we're not going, I don't feel comfortable voting to give an organization \$75,000 when they requested \$39,000, if there are other organizations that could benefit.
- Chair Kendall stated that we can't vote on everything at the same time. Can we just take a moment and go back to Number 1 just a second.

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- Commissioner Wharton said okay. Then we're going to vote on Number 1.
- Commissioner Palermo asked what schools are involved in this project. Is that listed in the application? The Number 1 where it says, this is to give \$50,000 to provide support for an organization preserving the history of the District of Columbia for a program engaging students to research the history of their schools and produce a museum quality exhibit. So my question was just, if we had an idea of what schools would be involved in this project?
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated yes, it would be in the application. She doesn't have the application in front of her, but yes, that would have to be detailed in the application.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if there was a way that we can't get that information for purposes of this vote.
- Michael Bigley stated that we don't have that readily available right now.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated yes. That would mean going through the portal and picking it out.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that his concern here is, obviously schools are funded at different levels in D.C. based on resources that are available to those immediate communities. And I would prefer to cast a vote for a project like this going to a school that benefits.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that Heran Sereke-Brhan is going to look in the portal. We're going to pull the portal up.
- Michael Bigley asked if this be a concern that you would have with any arts education program or is it just this one.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he thinks with this budget enhancement grant specifically. He already have concerns about the budget enhancement grants and so, I just want to take some other things into consideration before I vote.
- Michael Bigley stated he would just hope that whatever we do arts education wise we do that across the board. If we're doing it now.
- Commissioner Wharton says that we have to. It can't just be for one specific type of brand it has to be for all of them. Do we have access, who has access to a portal around here?
- Commissioner Friedman asked if we can move on while we're waiting for this.
- Commissioner Wharton stated well, now, let's see if we can do 3 while we access the portal.
- Chair Kendall asked to try to do Number 3.
- Commissioner Wharton stated 100,000 to assist a historical society that collects materials that document the history of everyday life in the District of Columbia, presents programs and produces exhibits with transition into new space and to facility the anticipated increase in visitors.
  - There was one applicant.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she counts 21 overall then, if it's only one applicant.
- Earica Busby stated their score was 57.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that the one that she sees is also 21. And it's a different score.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that there must have been a tie.
- Commissioner Palermo stated and then under Number 3 there's a different organization that also is 21.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks that it's a typo.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that there's just a discrepancy that we're trying to figure out.
- Commissioner Palermo asked can we move on.
- Chair Kendall stated that she wants to keep it to one conversation. And we're going to move to Number 4 for the moment until Heran comes back. Commissioner Wharton will you present Number 4?
- Commissioner Wharton stated that \$200,000 to provide support for a non-profit taxes organization dedicated to preserving an African-American cemetery and burial grounds and their associated history located in Georgetown to establish markings and boundaries for those cemeteries, burial grounds and to make the locations of the graves and the identity of those buried in those graves visible and clearly defined. There was only one applicant. And their score was 65.5.
- Chair Kendall stated they were Number 16 overall.
- Commissioner Friedman asked with a score of 65, they're getting \$200,000?
- Commissioner Wharton stated that it was only one applicant.

Commissioner Friedman asked but, when the group went to meet the panel, who reviewed these and scored them Number 16, did they feel they merited this award? Obviously with a 65 score there is question. We have to look on the four corners of the paper to look at these suggestively. If we look at a score of 65, did the panel, compared to others, think that they deserved the money or they gave them such a low score thinking maybe they didn't deserve the money? I'm just asking the question

- Chair Kendall stated that it's irrelevant. It's irrelevant because there was only one applicant in this category. It was 65. And as indicated it was 16 overall.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she would have to look at the comments.
- Commissioner Friedman asked so why did they get a 65 score?
- Chair Kendall stated that it just turned out, actually, they are 16 overall. There was nothing negative on this score. Whoever got Number 1 was the overall best high score. I mean, this one was for \$200,000. They looked at that one application, they talked about that application, they talked about merits the finances, the programs, the quality of materials, whatever was pertinent, they talked about it and then they voted.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she thinks the confusion is the presentation of it. We're used to looking at one category and looking at scores within that category.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated well, in the interest of time, why are we voting on an application when there is only one applicant; this is not really a vote.
- Chair Kendall stated because it's our job.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that we can abstain, which he recommends.
- Chair Kendall stated you can. She doesn't recommend it. It's a chance to endorse and bless something that's been recommended for us to do. You're welcome to do whatever you want.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated but this isn't an actual open panel process because, like, maybe Number 6 and Number 2, where there was like some actual competition, but the others have no competition with there being only one applicant.
- Chair Kendall stated that if there had been anyone who had chosen to compete it would have been competitive.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated these are written such that it's not exactly open. So, if there's only one applicant for this one, and to Rhona's point, for each panel the panelists score based on application, but it's basically saying, like, if they scored less than, if they scored at the bottom they're still getting money.
- Commissioner Miller asked were all 14 categories reviewed by one panel.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated yes.
- Commissioner Miller stated that it happens even when we do grants. There are times when we have somebody who is in the 80th percentile or 80 percent and then we go down, if we have enough money, we go down to 60. So we have that variance.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that you can't actually make that argument when there's one application versus 20.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks that we should call for a vote and you can vote however you want. This is the situation. Everyone is getting the total amount. There are only two that are competitive and those we're recommending the top score gets the full amount of the grant as well.
- Commissioner Wharton stated no, they were all competitive. People could have applied but this is what we have. Is there a way to question, is there a way to, back to Cicie's point I guess, the ones that, the categories that have only one applicant, can we vote on those as one vote and then do separate discussions on the ones that have multiple applicants?
- Commissioner Palermo asked so, there's only two that had more than one. Number 6 and Number 2.
- Chair Kendall stated that's correct.
- Chair Kendall stated so, why don't we, at least let's see. I'd like to consider that someone propose, make a motion that we **vote on 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 in one vote** because there is only one application in these categories.
  - Commissioner Miller moved the motion.



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- Commissioner Friedman seconded the motion.
  - Chair Kendall asked is there any discussion about the motion.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he was still waiting to find out what schools were included.
- Chair Kendall asked Heran Sereke-Brhan and David Markey were they able to find out.
- David Markey stated that he really doesn't think it's appropriate to divulge which school it is. Unless somebody has a really deep and thorough knowledge of every school in the city, we cannot make assumptions that because a school is located in a particular ward that it is needy or less needy than another school. The panelists reviewed the applications.
- Commissioner Palermo asked is it a DCPS school.
- David Markey stated yes, it is a DCPS school.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that's all he needed to know.
- Commissioner Wharton stated we need to **vote** on this motion.
  - Chair Kendall asked is there a second.
  - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion to vote.
  - Chair Kendall asked is there any more discussion on that? Then, all those in favor of voting on the single application competitive grants?
  - Chair Kendall asked any opposed? Abstain?
  - Commissioner Sattamilasskorn stated that she was going to abstain.
  - Commissioner Palermo stated that he was abstaining as well.
  - Commissioner Friedman stated that she was abstaining.
  - Commissioner Floyd abstained.
  - Chair Kendall stated that there are four abstaining's? Okay. Commissioner Glymph, are you on the phone? Did you vote?
  - Commissioner Glymph stated yes. He would say yes.
  - Chair Kendall stated okay. And, Commissioner Fleet are you there? Will you vote?
  - Commissioner Fleet stated yes. I'm with the yeses also.
  - Chair Kendall stated Okay, thank you.
- Chair Kendall stated Now we'll go back to number 6.
- Commissioner Wharton stated okay, Number 6, \$250,000 to provide a literary enrichment program for District performing public schools and public charter schools, including a provision of copies of literature and curricular materials and offer visitors for literary discussion with students. There were only four applicants.
- Commissioner Friedman asked who did this panel.
- Commissioner Wharton stated they're all budget enhancements; Chair Kendall was the panel convener.
- Commissioner Friedman stated okay. So the question is, it says here, there's a difference of 1.25 in scores. Is that similar to the one like, where they just ranked it one and two?
- Chair Kendall stated no, it's just pointing out that they were close. I mean, it just happens to be just like a point of information.
- Commissioner Friedman stated so basically, they're almost the same.
- Chair Kendall stated they were close.
- Commissioner Friedman asked so, there is no way you can split the grant award amount.
- Chair Kendall stated there's not. You can read the legislation.
- Commissioner Wharton stated okay, Number 6 states: \$250,000 to provide a literary enrichment program for District performing public schools and public charter schools, including a provision of copies of literature and curricular materials and offer visitors for literary discussion with students.
- Chair Kendall stated it's a literary enrichment program.
- Chair Kendall stated I mean, we did discuss this at some length, in Cicie's course of questions.
- Commissioner Friedman stated okay, so basically, out of this competition, there was a competition and Number 1 won.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, and it was a true competition.

- Commissioner Friedman asked can we vote on this one.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked so, we are slaves to the legislation? We can't make the recommendation that said based on panel, who we all agree, we value their opinions but the scores were so close that we can't say, hey, can we split it between these top two organizations.
- Chair Kendall stated I think not.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated okay.
- **Chair Kendall asked does she have a motion to vote on Budget Enhancement Grant 6.**
  - Commissioner Gates stated so moved.
  - Commissioner Banks seconded the motion.
  - Chair Kendall asked if there are any more discussions? All those in favor?
  - (Chorus of ayes)
  - Chair Kendall asked opposed? Those who abstain?
  - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn abstained.
  - Commissioner Palermo abstained.
  - Commissioner Floyd abstained.
  - Chair Kendall asked the Commissioners on the telephone, Commissioner Fleet and Glymph, would you all vote please on Number 6?
  - Commissioner Glymph asked is this is to give it to the number, the top organization only.
  - Commissioner Wharton stated yes, because the legislation specifically states, provide a literary enrichment program. Meaning, for one.
  - Commissioner Glymph stated okay, he is supportive so yes.
  - Commissioner Fleet stated yes.
  - Chair Kendall stated okay, thank you all. Now, Commissioner Wharton, we'll go back to 2.
- Commissioner Wharton okay, the legislation states, support an initiative to present the East Coast Premiere of a newly commissioned work with a week of related free community engagement events and an amount not to exceed \$75,000.
- Chair Kendall stated so, the question here was they requested \$39,000 and we'd be giving them \$75,000 and their project is worth \$80,000.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked well, if it says up to \$75k, why we would exceed \$75k what they asked for if the legislation says up to \$75k.
- Chair Kendall stated no, we would not exceed \$75.
- Commissioner Glymph stated that the legislation says not to exceed \$75,000.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that's the legislation. And the reason we stopped here is because we wanted to go back to the portal to see exactly what type of discussion the panelists might have had. Or maybe it came out of that \$39,000 in the discussion. Do we have access to the portal now?
- David Markey stated yes. So, their total project budget is indeed \$80,000. They're respectfully requesting \$39,000 from the Commission, and they are confident that they can provide matching funds in the amount of \$41,000.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated great. So, let's give them \$39,000.
- Commissioner Wharton stated but this grant doesn't require matching.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated but that's not the point. Are we now choosing to not be consistent with how we've been in granting? If we're just looking at the application and the application only requests \$39,000 and the legislation says not to exceed \$75,000, why would we give them \$75,000?
- Commissioner Friedman stated that's exactly right.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated but I think that's, again, irrelevant because the organization has taken it upon themselves to say, we can match the \$41,000.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she understands that, but they're going by guidelines.
- Commissioner Friedman stated if they're looking at the application, they can read just as much as we can. To Commissioner Miller's point before, you have to look at the four corners of the guidelines. My point is, they read

the guidelines and they decided to add money on their own. They can read that matching wasn't required. They can read it just like --

- Commissioner Wharton stated yes, but I got to push back on that point and that's because we, we've had to make sure that the guidelines are consistent. We've actually had situations where there's not been, where guidelines haven't matched grant-to-grant. I want to go back and see exactly what it said on this point.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if we could confirm with the organization.
- Commissioner Wharton stated no, because they made a decision to ask the \$39,000, that's the deal. They get \$39,000.
- Chair Kendall stated she wants to say, they have an opportunity to have \$75,000, we have an opportunity to be generous to them. We know they're going to try to match it but it doesn't require a match. Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn, you might say no, and you'll have a chance to vote. I'm saying that what's on the table as discussion, to give an opportunity to give the full \$75 as is legislated.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated okay.
- Commissioner Miller asked what we would do with the other \$36,000 if we give them \$39,000.
- Chair Kendall stated give it back. We won't be able to keep it and use it for something else, that money goes back.
- Commissioner Miller asked we couldn't use it anywhere else?
- Commissioner Friedman stated we could, maybe if we change the legislation area to reflect us using it somewhere else.
- Kennisha Rainge stated as a budget enhancement grant, we would have to give it back to Council.
- Commissioner Friedman asked Commissioner Wharton, did they get the budget enhancement grant last year, then we'll find out if they knew?
- Michael Bigley said no.
- Commissioner Friedman asked did they ever get any grants from us at all?
- Michael Bigley stated they get grants from us.
- Commissioner Friedman stated so they know what our grants require.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that not all grants require matches.
- Chair Kendall stated it's either we give this money up, or we're going to help them with their match and get to their project. They said they were confident they could make the match, but who knows, that's a lot of work. We all know how hard it is for organizations. And the people voted that this project was one they wanted to see happen. We can either help them make it happen or not.
- Commissioner Ucles stated because this might help. The legislation is set up this way. It doesn't mean everything set in stone. At least for this. So what we need to ask, if we may do it through Angie, through you is, can we request that in the future, from now on, based on the opinion of the Commissioners, that if an organization asks for an amount right here, or whatever they ask, should be granted, can we be given the prerogative to be generous to the community and be able to do right with doing grants and spread the wealth for the future.
- Chair Kendall stated but right now, this has gone through the grants committee and it's gone through the staff process, it's gone through the panel process. The recommendation is that we give them \$75,000. We are discussing it, and some of you feel that you don't want to. And we can vote on it.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she just wants to say, if we give them the \$75,000 and they decide that they cannot spend it and they return to us whatever they have not spent, we can go to the council and ask for a reprogramming. They do that at the council. They reprogram funds. So I think we should take that route. We should give them the \$75,000. If they cannot spend it, and they don't want it, they return it to us the way the organizations do, and then we can ask, we can go to the council and say, listen, you allocated \$75,000, the organization that ranked the highest to get this could not spend it, can we reprogram this money for something else.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked why we can't go to council now.
- Chair Kendall stated because right now we have to vote.
- Commissioner Miller stated because we don't know yet. We don't know yet. Maybe they can use the \$75,000.

- Commissioner Friedman asked so, you're asking us to vote on an assumption that they can use it? Just so everyone is clear that their vote depends on whether they want to make that assumption, which is fair. We want to make that decision.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, we are.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that she is not willing to do that.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that she wants to add some comfort, but either way, they get the \$75,000, which is, it says not to exceed, we can't give them more if they can't spend it, to Maryann's point, they have to return it. It's not like they're keeping the money. So, and if we, if you guys vote, if you guys vote, and let me clarify that, if you guys vote, the Commissioners vote on, to not give them the funds, the funds have to go back to council. So, either way, if they can't spend it, it goes back. If you guys vote on the \$39K and not \$75K, it goes back.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she thinks we're in a better position if we give them the \$75, they say, they come back and say we cannot spend it, we can then go and ask for a reprogramming. We're in a better position than just not giving them the additional funds.
- Commissioner Wharton stated because then we don't lose the money.
- Chair Kendall We're also in a nice position, I think personally, that since they did rank the highest and since we know the project costs \$80k, and we know they were going to have to try to do a match, and since the legislation is as it is, it's very generous of us to not make this complicated and give them the \$75k.
- Commissioner Wharton stated she also thinks back to what was read about the matching, I really think they thought they had to match it.
- **Chair Kendall asked does anyone want to move to vote on Budget Enhancement Grant 2.**
  - Commissioner Miller asked can I make a motion that we vote on this and that we give this organization \$75,000?
  - Chair Kendall asked is there a second?
  - Commissioner Banks seconded the motion.
  - Chair Kendall asked all those in favor, say aye?
  - (Chorus of ayes)
  - Chair Kendall asked any opposed?
  - Commissioner Friedman opposed.
  - Chair Kendall asked any abstains?
  - Commissioner Palermo abstained
  - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn abstained.
  - Commissioner Floyd abstained.
  - Chair Kendall stated three abstains. Commissioner Glymph, what is your vote?
  - Commissioner Glymph stated that he votes yes.
  - Chair Kendall stated okay, and Commissioner Fleet what is your vote?
  - Commissioner Fleet said yes.
  - Chair Kendall said okay, thank you all.
  - Commissioner Miller said okay, so it passes.
- Chair Kendall asked to move onto Public Art Report.

### Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Gates stated that Lauren Glover is going to pass out a handout that shows all the entities that are included in this selection. From which the panel chose one. **She is introducing a motion to increase the Art Bank allocation by \$6,000 to acquire the complete four-part series into the Art Bank collection.** When the panel met, there was misinterpretation of what the actual submission was. The panel mistakenly, and with staff, support the thought that of the four submissions we were only selecting one piece. In fact, it is a series, so, to purchase the series would cause us to increase the budget allocated to Art Bank by \$6,000. We do have the money, we can meet this. And so, I'm asking the Board to please support this purchase.
- Commissioner Friedman stated it's a nice series.





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- Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
- Chair Kendall asked so, you're making a motion that this pass? Is there any more discussion?
- Chair Kendall stated all right. All those in favor say aye?
- (Chorus of ayes)
- Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
- Commissioner Gates asked Commissioner Glymph and Fleet to vote.
- Commissioner Glymph stated yes.
- Commissioner Fleet stated I'm a yes.
- Chair Kendall asked any abstains?
- Commissioner Friedman asked if she could see the legislation for the other Budget Enhancement Grant 2.
- Commissioner Gates stated we have entered into an agreement with the D.C. Public Library to activate the plaza area of the newly renovated Capitol View Library, which is in Ward 7 on East Capitol Street, with a permanent work of art. Guidelines will be posted on our website December 21st for requests for proposals. The budget is \$30,000. The project is to be completed by August 2019. Also, I'm thrilled to say that the Howard Theater Walk of Fame has been completed. So, 15 bronze medallions and two way-finding signs, actually, it says begun. There was also a feature on this site on Channel 9. Gretchen chaired the panel two years ago.
- Commissioner Wharton stated yes, it's been a while.
- Commissioner Gates stated it has been vigilant since that time. So, this is it. If it isn't totally complete it's really moving in that direction. Well, to clarify, these medallions have all been installed. And so, what you have before you, is the initial one that went down. And that's Abby Mitchell. The kiosks are scheduled to begin the install next week. Of course, we're also in December so everything is weather permitting.
- Commissioner Friedman asked are these the interactive kiosks?
- Lauren Glover stated no, they're not. They're just informational kiosks. One on 7<sup>th</sup> and T, and it just provides sort of a guidance. An image of the nominee and then a brief description of what their role was in both D.C. culture, and most of them are national, internationally known as well. All of them have performed at the Howard Theater at some point during their career. In your report, you have a list of what these kiosks will be, they're really for informational signs, interpretive signs as way-findings. So, at T Street it will have a list of the names who, on 7th Street, then to 6th and then on T Street it will be seven through 15. There is some intentionality in how they're placed in terms of their historical nature. So, depending on how you enter the space. So, if you come up 7th Street, you're going to one through seven, and if you come up at T Street you'll see it backwards. But either way there are these informational way-finding signs that are guideline approved.
- Chair Kendall asked, so, that's it. Any questions?
- Chair Kendall asked for the Events Committee Report.

### Events Committee Report

- Commissioner Miller stated that she stopped by CAH for the 50th anniversary a little later in the day, so she got to see the artist working on this lovely mural that we now have to celebrate our 50 years.
- Chair Kendall stated that it's so pretty.
- Commissioner Miller stated that it's really impressive. She has really done an outstanding job. And everybody can see it, hopefully, when they leave here. And I'm looking forward to additional activities that we will have during the year to celebrate our 50 years.
- Commissioner Miller stated that there is nothing else.
- Chair Kendall asked to start the Arts Education report. Commissioner Miller is not present in the room at the moment so can David Markey give the report.
- Michael Bigley asked if Commissioner Miller was coming back.
- Chair Kendall stated that she is sure she's coming back, but she's not here at the moment so we can start.

### Arts Education Committee Report

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- David Markey stated for Poetry Out Loud that the event is moving forward. They are working with the event space as the date is set for March 7th. There is an alternate date set as well as a backup for any changes that may arise. More updates are forthcoming.
  - For Celebrate the Creative Spark! the window for applications is open. It closes on December 21<sup>st</sup>, we're hoping to have 50 residences to celebrate the 50th anniversary.
  - We've been having preparation workshops to help applicants the strongest application possible. And I'll let Commissioner Friedman speak to the spotlight lecture.
  - At this time, I'll mention the access and inclusion workshops. We have our next one coming up on January 30<sup>th</sup> for the institutional leadership. And both the executive director of Atlas and the managing director of Washington Improv Theater have agreed to come back to share their journey.
  - Last year we were able to have the consultant work with two organizations who had expressed strong interest in sort of moving the needle on their access and inclusion dials, so she gave them some mini consultations. And so they're going to come back to report out on how they've been faring.
- Chair Kendall stated that one of the good things we do is creating these workshops. We've seen increased interest, increased attendance and they've had success, I mean, they've sort of addressed stuff the community wanted.
- David Markey stated that Chair Kendall was right and there are sort of those umbrella themes that oftentimes organizations don't have the capacity to sort of get going.
- David Markey stated to Commissioner Friedman as she entered the room again that he reported out on three of the Arts Ed agenda items and he saved the Spotlight Lectures for her to speak more on.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that in the committee meeting, there were discussions about having a symposium or a spotlight lecture. We decided that a Spotlight Lecture would be in place of the Symposium. It's called the spotlight because Spotlight on Arts Education has been the name of our symposium for two years. If we can't have a symposium, we should still do something to spotlight arts education. So David Markey and I were talking; we're thinking of doing something that is not just related to trauma but emotional as well.
- David Markey stated that it's called Socioemotional.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that it was social emotional learning.
- David Markey stated that trauma-informed programming is really at the forefront as well. Very closely connected to socioemotional learning. So it's, as he said, something we're looking at that would be meaningful for everyone.
- Commissioner Friedman stated yes, but what we talked about in committee is what I want to report on now. What we reported on is what we're doing, and Commissioner Floyd was there, and we talked about social emotional learning and we were going to maybe bring up a speaker who is very well known to address the topic. It certainly could include trauma-informed programs.
- David Markey stated that these were just some examples.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that she is not sure she understands what trauma-informed programming is and asked David Markey to define it for everybody here. She thinks that would be the mental stability of our students was the overall notion here. So that's what we're working on.
- Commissioner Friedman asked David Markey if he thinks it would take place in the spring sometime.
- David Markey stated that it would all depend, we still have to get into looking at who would be the most appropriate person to give that lecture.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that maybe at the next committee meeting we can all bring suggestions.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that David Markey had a really good idea, which he didn't share about himself, he is interested in assessment evaluation.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that mentioned, not a symposium or lecture, but maybe a workshop you mentioned on an assessment for teachers and evaluation. Which is a really good point to address for people who are interested in it.
- David Markey stated that we're really looking at more capacity building and adding help via the professional development for teach, classroom teachers in the fall or adult teaching artist institute and so on. So focused on, how we can help them.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that it might be in the form of a workshop.



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- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks the assessment comes up a lot. For her in panels, listening to people discuss applications and do they have professional assessment and data to help them decide if their program is what they hope it is. People are trying to figure out how to do that the best way possible.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she has seen on television a public service announcement for STEM. She wondered if David Markey or Commissioner Friedman had contacts that we can somehow or other change that STEM to STEAM, to include the arts. Because we've talked about that.
- Commissioner Friedman stated she has already talked to people at the Bill Gates foundation, and they are so involved in STEM that they are not listening to her. They are very big and there are a lot of other organizations involved.
- Chair Kendall stated let's fight the fight, let's go for STEAM!
- Commissioner Miller asked if there was a way we can push STEAM if we get the right people.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that we certainly can, that's a good idea.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that there are some already that exist and deal with STEAM.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that the push on TV is all STEAM.
- David Markey stated that a huge part of that is the focus on young women in education
- Michael Bigley stated that maybe you know, or if someone else knows, if there a congressional arts caucus or something focused on STEAM.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that we do have that.
- Commissioner Miller stated that it will be stronger in a coming Congress, so, that's good.
- Chair Kendall stated to move along in the agenda as we have new and unfinished business.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that Commissioner Gates brings up a good point. We cannot lobby, we can we can only inform. We can't lobby as Commissioners.
- Commissioner Miller agreed.

### **New and Unfinished Business**

- Chair Kendall asked if there is there any new and unfinished business.
- Commissioner Friedman stated not to beat a dead horse, but I'd like to raise something. On the legislation that Commissioner Wharton referred to, she just read it, and she thinks everyone should read it just to make sure she saw correctly. She read there is a not to exceed statement. It doesn't say in that legislation it has to be a certain amount. It just says not to exceed.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that is what she read as well.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that she wants to reiterate that language and wants to know why we had to give the full \$75k versus \$39k the organization asked for.
- Chair Kendall stated that we did not have to.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that it was posed to us that we had to give a full amount or we lose it, and that's, or we lose all of it, and that's not exactly.
- Chair Kendall stated no, it was posed as an opportunity to give the full \$75k.
- Commissioner Miller stated to Commissioner Friedman that it's the reality. When you're allocated money for a specific function and you don't use it, you lose it.
- Chair Kendall agreed.
- Commissioner Friedman I agree, but I want to point out that the legislation said something that was not exactly what I feel I voted on, so that's it.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he would like to reemphasize that through the staff we should have the conversation, or that you guys should have the conversation with city council and present your opinions on people, we're trying to suggest that we should be able to spread the wealth.
- Chair Kendall stated that she actually already had that conversation. With her being the Commissioner panel convener for the Budget Enhancement Grant panel and saw the results and it was the grants committee, it became clear and she could see that it was complicated and it could be addressed on the front end to make it a lot easier for us.
- Commissioner Ucles thanked Chair Kendall and stated that it would be easier for us and we would be helping more people, which is always good.

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- Commissioner Friedman asked to Commissioner Miller her opinion as a legislative person if it says a program, is it only one program or can it be a program by several organizations.
- Commissioner Miller stated that budget enhancement grants are technically for one organization.
- Commissioner Miler stated that that's a distinction that was not stated.
- Commissioner Friedman it says, a program, it doesn't say an organization.
- Commissioner Miller said she thinks Commissioner Friedman is right.
- Commissioner Friedman asked why we couldn't divide it up.
- Chair Kendall stated because there was no chance to divide it. We were either going to give less or give it all.
- Commissioner Friedman stated no, no, she's reading and talking about the legislation. It doesn't say one organization. It just says, a program within this category.
- Commissioner Gates stated that that means it's one program.
- Chair Kendall also stated that it means it's one program.
- Commissioner Ucles stated no, to me it could be a program that different schools are doing a similar project.
- Commissioner Friedman agreed with Commissioner Ucles.
- Commissioner Gates stated it's a collaborative effort, but it's still one program.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that that's a clarification we have to ask.
- Chair Kendall stated that it's one program.
- Commissioner Gates stated that there is nothing to stop them from collaborating with each other.
- Commissioner Miller asked was this legislation for future fiscal years.
- Chair Kendall stated that this legislation was just this year's legislation.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that has two items for old business and two for new business.
- Chair Kendall said okay, let's get on with it.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he would start with the old business.
  - He just wanted to know, since the last time he brought it up as new business, about the current communications protocol for getting information from staff leadership of the agency. It was something I raised at the last meeting. Specifically, was asking for a stated reasonable expectation of time for us to be getting a response to inquiries. A point of reference is the fact that I asked questions about this contract amendment that I still haven't gotten answers from. So, I just want to bring that back up as old business and try to get some kind of resolution to that.
- Chair Kendall stated that she doesn't know if resolution will be helpful to him, but it turns out, she knows last summer when he was asking something, that there were some kinks to get out of the system because we've discussed it afterwards and there had been a conversation between the staff and her that maybe gave me the answer to what you were asking. Because it didn't come through an email, that I saw, forward on to you, it may have dropped through the cracks. And so, you didn't get an answer to something that Kennisha Rainge had answered verbally to me and I didn't realize I had not communicated it back to you via e-mail.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if this is this in reference to the commissioners' names being removed from the flyers.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, I think so.
- Commissioner Palermo asked what the consensus was.
- Chair Kendall stated that what she knows about that is that they were never there usually in the first place, and when Arthur came they were added. She asked Jeffrey Scott to chime in. He might, he might address this, but as I understand it, it was Arthur's idea to put them there, having never been there before. And then when Arthur had left and his name was removed, they were removed too, and they just weren't put back because there is no other protocol in other agencies that do that on announcements that go out. There was a new protocol that put our names at the bottom in recent years, if you scrolled down.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he thinks it was like that years prior.
- Chair Kendall said it wasn't.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he thought it was. It was on the website and then when something out
- Commissioner Palermo stated that it was always on there.
- Chair Kendall said she apologizes, she was told that it wasn't.

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- Jeffrey Scott stated that the Commissioners names are still on the website of course and asked if they were referring to you're the emails that go out?
- Commissioner Miller stated invitations, like our announcements is what they are referring to.
- Jeffrey Scott stated that the names were taken off primarily because other states arts agencies that have boards and commissions do not do it, so keeping with the national best practices.
- Commissioner Ucles asked when was it done, When Arthur left.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, in May/June it was changed.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that don't you ever hear, what your mother used to say, I don't care what other people do.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks what Commissioner Palermo is saying is, could we request that the names be put back and she think maybe that's something that could be done.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that actually, it's not at all my point of his question. The point of the question was the overall communications protocol, as it currently exists. We have to funnel communications to staff leadership through you which goes to Kennisha Rainge, which who knows what happens after that. The case in point that he was intending to bring up is an email that he sent in the wake of the contract amendments asking clarifying questions that, to this day, remain unanswered. So, using that example as a premise for this specific question: when are we going to update the current communications protocol so that we can actually have a flow of information.
- Chair Kendall the answer won't maybe satisfy you, but the answer is, we responded but maybe not to your satisfaction. You know, the response was, and it was discussed today that, actions were taken.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that there are questions he had as to how this happened, that are yet to be resolved at all.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if they two separate issues.
- Chair Kendall stated that we know, that there was a problem at the Reeves Center with the arts project. We know that in trying to protect the agency from being sued or from something that might not be right, there was a decision made that was in the amendment. And that was a mistake, it was a group of people meeting together that did something that, you know, was a group thing. And it was obviously a mistake and they heard that it was and they took it back.
- Commissioner Ucles stated it was an internal process.
- Commissioner Palermo stated getting back to my original question though, we need to establish a reasonable expectation of time to get responses to questions asked if we're expected to abide by this protocol.
- Commissioner Friedman asked what protocol Commissioner Palermo was referring to.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the protocol established that communication has to be filtered through Chair Kendall and through Kennisha Raing and then maybe it goes to Interim Executive Director Gates and maybe she'll decide to respond to respond through Kennisha Rainge, which goes to Kay and then back to us.
- Chair Kendall stated that she has said, and I'll say again, and this is what I'm looking forward to. I think that when we have an Executive Director whose here full-time, that that opportunity for more communication will exist in a way that hopefully will satisfy us all.
- Commissioner Palermo thanked Chair Kendall.
- Commissioner Palermo stated for new business he has a question about the Reeves Center installation and Marta Perez, can we get an update on what's been happening with that. The last I think we heard there was some controversy over her installation. Has that installation been moved or altered in any way?
- Michael Bigley stated that the installation was closed at the end of October was de-installed per her grant agreement.
- Commissioner Palermo stated okay. His last item for new business is an update on the Poet Laureate. This has dragged on for an incredible amount of time. He knows his committee was dissolved rather abruptly by the Mayor's Office of Talents, and whatever the A stands for.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that the A stands for Appointments.
- Commissioner Palermo asked is Director Gates is supposed to be chairing this Committee and what the status is and how things are moving.
- Chair Kendall stated that she does not know if Interim Executive Director Gates is chairing, she doesn't think she's chairing it though.
- Commissioner Friedman stated no, Steve is.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that Steve Walker is chairing the Poet Laureate Board.

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- Kennisha Rainge stated that Interim Executive Director Gates is not the chair, the Board is housed just like this Board is housed, within the various Boards and Commissions in the District of Columbia. The new Poet Laureate has to go underneath the MOTA office as well. Interim Executive Director Gates is not the chair, Director Steven Walker is not the Chair, he is the Director of MOTA.
- Chair Kendall said that she would ask Steve for an update
- Chair Kendall stated that she will let the Commissioners know of an update when she hears.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he'd also be curious to know if they're planning to fund the Office of the Poet Laureate. Previously I think that had come from the Commission on Arts and Humanities.
- Chair Kendall stated that she would find out.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that on the website it said it is not, it is an unpaid position, it is an expense, private money.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, and it would be good to know what happened with that.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the other question is who would the Poet Laureate report to.
- Chair Kendall stated that she would follow that up.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that previously I think that poet laureate sat in on our meetings and would report back on our activities.
- Chair Kendall stated yes and asked was there any other old or new business or unfinished business?
- Commissioner Floyd stated that she has a statement to make:
  - In the last meeting we talked about like branding, and she noticed that the 50th Anniversary videos were on OCTFME website and not the Commissions. She knows Interim Executive Director Gates is juggling two agencies but is it possible to get that video and put it onto the Commissions site because we keep talking about branding, branding, branding, but it shouldn't be on 202 Creates or OCTFME's website, it should be on CAH's.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that was a good point.
- Chair Kendall asked Jeffrey Scott, where the video is posted.
- Jeffrey Scott stated that's it's on our YouTube and our website.
- Kennisha Rainge stated yes, it's on both. DC agencies like to cross-collaborate. The more agencies that promote our events and highlights the better. So, we would never want to stop another agency from promoting what we're doing as we would do the same for them.
- Commissioner Floyd stated okay, at her first look she didn't see it.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that Commissioner Floyd is talking about the branding on the bottom, she would like it would say, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities where it says 202 Creates and the Mayor's Office.
- Commissioner Palermo stated a quick follow-up, if you don't mind. Specifically related to his inquires on the communications protocol. Chair Kendall said in response to his question that she's looking forward to having a new executive director, do you know when that may be. Because in the meantime, I'm assuming we still have to abide by this communication.
- Chair Kendall said yes, she thinks it will be fairly soon.
- Commissioner Palermo stated okay. While we still have this current Interim Executive Director, can you please follow-up and nail down a reasonable expectation of time for us to get a response.
- Chair Kendall stated yes. We're trying to get responses 24/48 hours. So, if you send something and you have a response that doesn't happen, then send me an email or call me and just say, hey, I'm waiting. And I'll try to, I've been sometimes maybe the problem. Just, let me know you're waiting in case I haven't answered you.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he is still waiting for some responses that I sent about a month ago.
- Chair Kendall stated that well, some you have to wait for.
- Commissioner Palermo asked, and never receive an answer.
- Chair Kendall stated yes, you got an answer, you just don't like the answer.
- Chair Kendall stated that she has some news.



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- Patrick Realiza stated for just a point of clarification, if he may answer a question. I think you were asking the video link of the anniversary was originating from the Cable Film Institute YouTube page? So, when that film was produced and the original link was created it was housed on theirs, but I was able to track it and now we have it on ours as well. And so, we're not going to take it down because that was heavily socialized, it would be detrimental to kind of remove that link.
  - Commissioner Floyd said okay.
  - Commissioner Floyd stated that she doesn't want to take it down, she just wanted to make sure it was attached to the Commission.
  - Chair Kendall stated that the meeting is scheduled to end at 6:00. And one thing I think that you all would want to know is that Zoma is leaving the agency and tomorrow is her last day.
  - Kennisha Rainge stated, yes, she's going on to finish her last semester to obtain her PhD.
  - Chair Kendall stated she's following her own dream. So you all may want to reach out to her.
  - Chair Kendall stated and then the second piece of news is, today is Heran Sereke-Brhan's birthday, let's all wish and sing her a happy birthday.
  - Heran Sereke-Brhan said thank you, guys. Thank you very much.
  - Chair Kendall stated that the meeting is adjourned at 5:54pm.
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### **Adjournment**

- Full meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 5:54 PM.
- The next Full Commission Meeting will be in January 23, 2019