



04.14.15 Minutes

Special Commission Meeting Minutes

4/14/2015

4:00pm – 4:50pm

Dial In: 1.877.919.3206- Pass Code: 1848681#

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Susan Clampitt (PHONE) Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Barbara Jones; James E. Laws; MaryAnn Miller (PHONE); Jose Alberto Ucles; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Lisa Richards Toney, INTERIM DIRECTOR Victoria Murray Baatin, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC ACTION; Derek Younger, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION Brittany Dibble; Steven Mazzola

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on April 14, 2015 at 4:00 pm at 200 I (Eye) Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Innovate DC

- Chair Kay Kendall welcomed those present and expressed her sincere pleasure for being present at her first commission meeting.
- Chair Kendall deferred to Interim Director Lisa Richard Toney to begin discussion of the Innovate DC grant initiative.
- Interim Director Toney reported that the agency now has a greater balance than originally expected to dedicate towards the Innovate DC grant initiative; a new total of \$1,010,000.00.
- Interim Director Toney reported on various sources that contributed to the new total.
- Chair Kendall asked if those located funds will disappear if not utilized in FY 15.
- Interim Director Toney responded that was correct.
- Chair Kendall deferred to Commission Gretchen Wharton to discuss the timeline of the Innovate DC grant.
- Commissioner Wharton referred to the timeline. She continued by leading those present through the steps necessary to execute the grant since it was approved by the agency in January 2015.
- Chair Kendall deferred to Deputy Director Derek Younger to further discuss the grant initiative.
- Deputy Director Younger complimented the volunteer panelists for their consistent concern regarding the innovative nature of each applicant presented to them.
- Deputy Director Younger reported the Innovate DC grant will abide by normal grant guidelines with regards to the distribution of awards, future site visits, and oversight.
- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman stated that providing applicants the opportunity to personally pitch their projects informed the panelists' views of the applications.
- Chair Kendall called for a motion to approve the award recommendations as presented.
- Commissioner Friedman moved to accept the Innovate DC award recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded.
- Chair Kendall called for discussion.
- Chair Kendall continued by reporting that it was recommended that awardees immediately receive as much of their monetary request as possible due to the not-business-as-usual nature of their projects.
- Chair Kendall stated it is important to the agency to include a project based in Ward 8 among those recommended for funding.

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- Commissioner Wharton reported that of the 120 applications the agency received for the grant, 37 applications were recommended to present personal pitches on Friday, April 10th. She continued by stating that 36 ultimately presented due to one applicant realizing she would not be able to complete the project by September.
- Commissioner James E. Laws, Jr. asked if awardees 12 – 15 would be able to execute their projects if they received less than their requested amount.
- Deputy Director Younger responded, in their original applications, each of those four applicants indicated they would be able to execute the projects without receiving 100% of their requests.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that it was the objective of the grant program to fund as many projects as possible.
- Chair Kendall stated it was exciting to fully fund organizations with requests ranging anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000.
- Commissioner Wharton stated it may benefit the agency to define the term “innovate,” should the grant be offered in the future.
- Chair Kendall called for a vote on Commissioner Friedman’s motion to accept the award recommendations as presented.
The motion carried. Unanimous.
- Commissioner Miller requested that commissioners be invited to site visits during the oversight process.
- Commissioner Susan Clampitt asked if it was possible to personally call those 15 awarded applicants instead of depending on mailed letters.
- Deputy Director Younger responded that the top 15 will receive a personal phone call, emailed letter, as well as a mailed letter.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.