

6.26.14 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

6/26/2014

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

1000 New Jersey Ave., SE

Attending Commissioners: Judith Terra, CHAIR; Lavinia Wohlfarth, VICE CHAIR; Marvin Bowser; Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet; Antoinette Ford; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; Darrin Glymph (phone); Barbara Jones; James E. Laws, Jr.; MaryAnn Miller

Attending Staff Members: Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Lisa Richards Toney, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Dolores Kendrick POET LAUREATE; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Elizabeth Carriger; Brittany Dibble; Brandal Jones; Tonya Jordan; David Markey; JR Russ; Jeffery Scott

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on June 26, 2014 at 4:02 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400 Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair Judith Terra motioned to amend the agenda to allow for an Executive Session of the Full Commission. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried. Unanimous

Executive Session

- All members of the staff were dismissed.
- The recording of the proceedings was stopped by one of the attending Commissioners.
- Resultantly, there is no audio record of the proceedings as required by the Open Meetings Act.
- Staff returned to the meeting at 5:02pm.

Adoption of May 15th Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller noted that Arts Education Assistant Ariel Wilson's last name was typed incorrectly on page one of the minutes and should be updated to accurately reflect her last name.
- Chair Judith Terra motioned to adopt the May 15, 2014 minutes with the aforementioned amendment. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Terra noted that for the sake of time, she would abbreviate her report – particularly given that a long Executive Session had just taken place.
- Chair Terra expressed delight that so many Commissioners and staff were in attendance at the meeting.
- Chair Terra deferred to Executive Director Lionell Thomas to give his Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Lionell Thomas noted that in the interest of time, he would not belabor his report and asked that the Commissioners refer to the 7-page written report that was printed for their review.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the long-range strategic planning consultant has been approved by the Office of Contract and Procurement. He went on to congratulate Deputy Director Lisa Richards Toney's efforts in pushing the contract through.
- Deputy Director Toney noted that as of July 1, 2014 official planning would begin. She went on to note that the timeline has been revised and that the expected completion date was March/April 2015.
- Deputy Director Toney reported that the Cultural Planning Group was selected as the entity awarded the contract

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- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Arts Education Census was moving forward.
- Arts Education Coordinator David Markey reported that the census window closed in the middle of May.
- Education Coordinator Markey noted that the drop-dead date for completion of the census was June 30, 2014.
- Executive Director Thomas acknowledged the Public Art Team and the 5x5Project, which has been gaining momentum.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the Lois Mailou Jones exhibition would be coming in the fall.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that there were several dedications and groundbreakings scheduled, noting particularly the Metro Legacy Memorial park groundbreaking that took place on June 22, 2014.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the groundbreaking was attended by Mayor Vincent Gray and Councilmember Muriel Bowser (Ward 4).
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Chuck Brown Memorial Park is expected to be complete August 22, 2014.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that all other items could be read at the leisure of the Commissioners, and invited anyone with question to call him directly.
- Chair Terra asked if there were any comments or responses.
- Commissioner Antoinette Ford commented that the 5x5 Project looks fantastic and she could not wait to see the submerged gas station.
- Chair Terra turned to the Office of the Poet Laureate.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick discussed her involvement with multiple projects and opportunities including: a workshop in April for women of color at the Anacostia Museum.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted her involvement in a May reading of Baldwin at Arena Stage.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted her involvement in a reading for the Larry Neal Writers' Awards.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted that on June 16, 2014 she received an invitation from the Ambassador of Ireland to attend a celebration of James Joyce at the Irish Embassy.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted her upcoming poetry and music program on June 28, 2014 at the Heritage Museum.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted that she received an invitation for September 25 - 29, 2014 for a conference at George Mason University.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted that she had been commissioned to write a poem for the 150th celebration of a local church to be read on October 1, 2014.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick noted that her new book would be out in the fall of 2014.
- Chair Terra turned to the Community Funding Request.

Community Funding Request

- Chair Terra asked that Director of Grants Moshe Adams present the Community Funding Requests.
- Director Adams thanked the Commissioners for responding to the e-mail correspondence that was circulated and for helping to get the applications out and for having so many people respond to the request.
- Director Adams noted that the same protocol was followed for this round of Community Funding Requests as was for the first round Community Funding Requests.
- Director Adams recapped that this was a Commission initiated opportunity for grantees to apply with projects that fall outside of the regular grant cycle.
- Director Adams noted that this was an abbreviated process and that the desire was to make the funds available as quickly as possible.
- Director Adams noted that the staff had review the proposal and had identified recommended amounts and asked that the Commissioners consider the recommendations presented.

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- Director Adams inquired whether everyone had had the opportunity to review that applications and take a look at the recommendations.
- Director Adams noted that a total of 11 applications were received; there were over \$170,000 in requests; there is \$46,700 in available funding.
- Chair Terra confirmed that everyone was in receipt of the information and asked to hear from the Commissioners, opening the floor for discussion.
- Commissioner Marvin Bowser called for Point of Order noting that he did not understand what happening as action was had been taken during the Executive Session.
- Chair Terra noted that the Community Funding Request was brought for a vote.
- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman remarked that action was taken during Executive Session and asked why this was being discussed.
- Chair Terra noted that according to the bylaws . . . [unfinished sentence]
- Chair Terra confirmed that action was taken.
- Commissioner Marvin Bowser offered to repeat his motion so that it was on the record.
- Chair Terra inquired as to whether the question was in order.
- Commissioner Darrin Glymph replied that the question was in order and that the motion needed to be repeated for the record.
- Commissioner Bowser moved that the Commissioners table the matter for today and refer it to the Grants Committee for action.
- Commissioner Freidman noted that the motion was seconded.
- Chair Terra remarked that it would then go to the Policy Committee.
- Executive Director Thomas asked for clarity on whether that having the matter go before the Policy Committee was not a part of the motion.
- Commissioner Freidman confirmed that having the matter go before the Policy Committee was not a part of the motion.
- Commissioner Antoinette Ford noted that it was said that having the matter go before the Policy Committee was a part of the motion.
- Chair Terra asked if Commissioner Alma Gates had recorded the motion.
- Commissioner Gates confirmed that she had recorded the motion.
- Commissioner Glymph suggested that the staff be offered a short explanation of the motion given that they were not privy to the conversation.
- Chair Terra remarked that discussions were held and that Commissioners were concerned about how the determinations are being made in regards to the Community Funding requests.
- Chair Terra went on to note that more clarification was needed and that these items could not be approved willy-nilly and that that was the basic sentiment of the Commission.
- Executive Director Thomas noted for the record that this is not setting a new precedent and that we have previously provided recommendations to the Commission and brought it before the Commission board for consideration – noting that it was only for consideration.
- Executive Director Thomas went on to note that in previous iterations, the Grants Committee was reluctant to weigh-in on these as they felt their charge was more about the grant guidelines themselves.
- Chair Terra asked for confirmation from Commissioner Susan Clampitt.
- Commissioner Bowser responded . . . [unfinished sentence]
- Commissioner Bowser noted that recommendations listed certain applications as ineligible and questioned what guidelines they were ineligible against.
- Executive Director Thomas remarked that ineligible was not the word that wanted to be used and that he would not characterize it as such. Nor so that the application does not fit the spirit of the grant applications.
- Commissioner Lavinia Wohlfarth commented that action on this was not to be delayed and that action was needed immediately and that it would not sit unanswered.



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- Commissioner Wohlfarth went on to determine that there was a two-week timeframe for action. She noted that it was the feeling on the Commission that the guidelines were vague and not totally agreed upon and that all along the way everything would be discussed with Executive Director Thomas.
- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller commented that she will vote against the motion because this matter should go to the Policy Committee for the sake of determining guidelines.
- Chair Terra called for a vote on the motion and asked if there was a second to the motion.
- Commissioner Gates confirmed that Commissioner Friedman had seconded the motion in the Executive Session.
The motion carried.
- Chair Terra turned to the Commissioner panel conveners.

Commissioner Panel Conveners

- Director Adams presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining Commissioner-Convener roles and responsibilities.
- Director Adams concluded his presentation by asking that Commissioners sign-up on the pink sign-up sheets provided in their packets and e-mailed to them in advance of the meeting to convene and/or co-convene panels.
- Commissioner Miller noted that only six Commissioners have signed-up so far and reminder the group that there are 15 Commissioners in total.
- Commissioner Friedman noted that the majority of the July dates had been taken and that she would be away in August.
- Commissioner Ford volunteered to convene the East of the River panel.
- Commissioner Clampitt noted that an additional responsibility of a convener is to ask questions that prompt discussion regarding aspects of a grant application that needs further investigation by the panel.
- Director Adams shared that once a Commissioner signs up to convene a panel, the grants team will be in contact with them to provide a packet of information in preparation for the panel.
- Commissioner Friedman reminded the group that it was discussed in Executive Session that the primer document would be reviewed.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested the phrase “commissioners assist staff” be revised to read “staff assist commissioners.”
- Commissioner Ford suggested the materials panelists are receiving should be read by conveners in preparation for the panel.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that as soon as the grants portal opens, conveners will have access to all application materials.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested that Director Adams collect the individual Commissioner’s schedules instead of asking Commissioners to sign-up to convene a panel at a time that is convenient for them to ensure that a broad range of Commissioners are signing-up to serve as conveners for an entire month. This may help with having a more broad range of Commissioners serve instead of only one or two.
- Commissioner James Laws inquired as to what would happen should no Commissioner sign-up to convene a panel.
- Director Adams responded that the Executive Director or Deputy Director would act as Convener.
- Chair Terra turned to the Cultural Planning Group presentation.

Cultural Planning Group

- Executive Director Thomas commented that the mapping tool would be a great resource District and will allow the Commission to visualize data concurrently in order to make informed decisions about future investments.
- Martin Cohen of the Cultural Planning Group made his presentation.
- Commissioner Miller inquired as to whether the Office of Planning had been involved in the mapping tool.
- Martin Cohen responded the sources of data being collected currently exist within the agency or with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer – moving forward Office of Planning would be involved.
- Commissioner Ford inquired as to whether there are other jurisdictions with comparable mapping tools that have been investigated.

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- Executive Director Thomas noted that there were no other cities that have gone as far as we are going with the mapping tool.
- Martin Cohen noted that the closest would be the CultureBlocks tool in Philadelphia. He went on to note that the platform is a great research tool for a sophisticated user but that it is cumbersome and not that user friendly for the general public.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the Arts Commission is setting the standard with this mapping tool.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth inquired as to how an artist would access this system to add their information.
- Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin responded that through the grants portal “Good Done Great” current grantees would be automatically added to the registry. She went on to note that for those that were not already grantees, they could sign-up to the registry through the “Good Done Great” portal without applying for grant funds.
- Executive Director Thomas commended the work of Director Baatin for her efforts in moving the tool forward.
- Commissioner Bowser inquired as to when the tool would go public.
- Director Baatin responded that ideally, the tool would be ready for internal use by the end of the fiscal year and that it would be ready for public use by the end of the calendar year.
- Commissioner Bowser inquired as to whether tool would be beta tested and when those test would occur.
- Director Baatin responded that it was fluid and that there would be phases of testing leading up to public access. She went on to ask if Commissioner Bowser would like to be a part of the group test group.
- Commissioner Bowser indicated that he would very much like to be a part of the group test group.
- Commissioner Friedman inquired as to what the portal is for the mapping tool was.
- Martin Cohen responded that the mapping tool would live in the District’s system through Office of the Chief Technology Officer and that a public face would be created so that it could be accessed.
- Director Baatin noted that the system would be accessible by arch.gis through the Office of the Chief Technology Officer and that the tool would also be imbedded into the Arts Commission website.
- Chair Terra turned to Committee Reports.

Committee Reports

- Chair Terra noted that there were Standing or Internal Committee reports to be given and moved to Ad Hoc, calling for the Public Art Committee.
- Standing Committees
 - No Reports Requested
- Internal Committees
 - No Reports Requested
- Ad Hoc Committees
 - Public Art
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth highlighted the 5 X 5 launch.
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth reported that the Public Art Committee will meet tomorrow (Friday, June 26, 2014) to review pieces for Art Bank acquisition. She went on to note that there were about 64 pieces to select from with a budget of \$200,000.
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth congratulated Collections Management Specialist Ron Humbertson for his efforts in cataloging the collection. She went on to note that he has logged approximately 2,700 pieces of fine art, and 200 pieces of public art in the collection.
 - Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan noted that the Public Art team would be transferring all data to a professional cataloguing system.
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that there was growing interest in putting together a collection of our most honored Washington artists, living or dead.
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth then noted that the Public Art team is finishing the implementation of a five-year strategic plan and moving into a 10-year plan.

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- Chair Terra inquired as to how it will be determine who will be involved with the planning process.
- Manager Jordan responded that the first step would be for the Public Art team to will map out a plan for the assessment process, identifying what needs to be reviewed and then identify the best consultant based on the needs.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Executive Director Thomas discussed the “Art All Night” project for Commissioners’ consideration.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that there are six main streets interested in participating on September 27, 2014 from 7:00pm – 3:00am.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the previous event at Shaw main street attracted over 15,000 visitor in one night.
- Commissioner Ford noted the success of all-night markets in South Korean, for they have become a part of the community’s local economy. She went on to note that this event could have artistic applications as well as economic applications, particularly in places east of the river.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that there is already a buzz with those who are interested in participating.
- Commissioner Bowser inquired as to how the event was financed in the past?
- Executive Director Thomas responded that Shaw Main Street fundraised in the past because it was just one neighborhood jurisdiction. He went on to note that the Commission had funded the effort in part in previous iterations. Noting now that multiple neighborhoods are involved, different sources of funding are necessary.
- Director Adams noted that the Commission contribution in the past through the Special Funding Opportunity grant was approximately \$10,000, but was not positive on the figure at the moment.
- Commissioner Bowser suggested a partnership as a better business model then funding everything that’s on the table.
- Executive Director Thomas clarified that the suggested budget of \$200,000 is the Commission’s contribution to the entire event and that the neighborhoods and other companies involved will be expected to contribute additional funds as well.
- Commissioner Bowser inquired as to what the entire budget for the project was.
- Executive Director Thomas responded that the entire budget has yet to be determined as further conversation was need with each jurisdiction.
- Chair Terra inquired as to where the \$200,000 for the project would come from in the Commission’s budget.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that he would like to work with the Finance Committee to identify funds in the budget. Noting that there will be likely be unused funds in the Lincoln Theatre budget.
- Commissioner Friedman noted that in order for the Finance Committee to adequately review, they would need to know what the overall project budget is and what the proposed Commission contribution would be.
- Commissioner Ford motioned to consider the proposal presented by Executive Director Thomas to support the Art All Night project and forward to the Finance Committee to determine the level of funding. It was further understood that in the next fiscal year it would be considered for a partnership. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Chair Terra turned the discussion the Ten-Year Public Art Master Plan and deferred to Commissioner Wohlfarth.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that his plan has been discussed at the past three Commission meetings.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that it was now time to take a vote and that Manager Jordan had included figures on the estimated cost for the plan.

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- Executive Director Thomas noted that the figure of \$100,000 – \$135,000 was an estimated and that what is being requested at this time is that the Commission approve a place holder in the FY15 budget for the plan.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth motioned to propose to implement a Ten-Year Public Art Master Plan with a place holder in the FY15 budget for the plan. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Chair Terra called for any new business or announcements.
- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick shared that a poem of hers has been included on a sculpture at the NoMa Metro Station at Florida and New York Avenue.
- Chair Terra thanked everyone for participating in the long meeting.

Adjournment

- With no new business the meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm.