

7.21.16 Minutes

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

7/21/2016

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm-Public Comment Period

4:00 pm-6:00 pm-Deliberative Meeting

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Stacie Lee Banks; Edmund Fleet; Antoinette Ford (phone); Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; Darrin Glymph; MaryAnn Miller; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Earica Busby; Tonya Jordan; Steven Mazzola; Patrick Realiza; Kyra Saffran; Jeffrey Scott; J. Carl Wilson

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on July 21, 2016 at 4:03 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the May 26th Minutes

- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton motioned to adopt the amended minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the June 23rd Minutes

- Commissioner Darrin Glymph motioned to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kay Kendall noted that she would like to have an Executive Session after the Full Commission meeting.
- Chair Kendall read an email from Commissioner Antoinette Ford who wrote of her pleasant experience convening an East of the River Panel, and lauded Grants Programs Manager Khalid Randolph and Grants Director Steven Mazzola for their hard work.
- Chair Kendall expressed interest in visiting Music on the Mall, and suggested that Commissioners attend if possible.
- Commissioner José Alberto Uclés explained that he is working to help select Music on the Mall musicians through the panel process.
- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. stated the location will be in front of the National Air and Space Museum.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Espinoza welcomed new staff members: J. Carl Wilson, General Counsel, and Dr. Jeffrey Scott, Programs and Communications Officer.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that the Cultural Plan kick-off event INTERMISSIONDC, took place yesterday to gather community input into the future Cultural Plan for the District at MLK Library.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that INTERMISSIONDC was produced by the Office of Planning, with the help of BW Workshop and HR&A Advisors, Inc., the consultant group hired to produce the Cultural Plan.
- Executive Director Espinoza encouraged Commissioners to attend the next public meetings on the plan.

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- Executive Director Espinoza noted Deputy Director Michael Bigley and Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin are the main points of contact for the cultural plan work for CAH, and that Chair Kendall will become more involved in September.

Bylaws Report:

- Commissioner Darrin Glymph introduced proposed amendments to Bylaws on behalf of the Bylaws Committee.
- Commissioner Glymph motioned to discuss amended Bylaws as presented and suggested waiving the 15-day advance notification since Commissioners were given 7 days in advance to review the amendments.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman inquired about Article IV, Section 8 in regards to advising and consenting to different events the agency presents.
- Commissioner Friedman shared that in her experience over the past 10 years as a Commissioner, this is the most limited amount of authority the Commissioners have had and they should become more involved.
- Commissioner Glymph confirmed that Commissioner Friedman's comment regarding limited authority was referring to the program-related expenditure of agency funds.
- Commissioner Friedman stated she is referencing programs, projects and events and would like to hear the Executive Director's opinion.
- Chair Kendall confirmed that the Commission's role is to oversee grant expenditures.
- Executive Director Espinoza referenced other NEA-funded organizations that are similarly working beyond grantmaking, like DCCAH's strategic plan.
- Executive Director Espinoza suggested obtaining a legal review of the Bylaws.
- General Counsel J. Carl Wilson discussed that foundationally DCCAH's statutes allow for the adoption of new Bylaws, but that they must go through Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs (OPLA) and MOLC.
- General Counsel Wilson stated regulations and Bylaws are adopted for the purpose of fleshing out statutes of a particular state, and added that the Commission cannot adopt provisions or regulations of a Bylaw that are not authorized by the foundational statute.
- Commissioner Friedman inquired about the Enabling Act which simply states "grants" rather than specifying the competitive nature of the grants.
- Commissioner Glymph noted that partner grants fall under grants and therefore they should be brought to the Commission as well.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that many of the partner grants are for organizations that have been funded annually.
- Executive Director Espinoza added that increasing grants wherever possible is a goal.
- Commissioner Glymph stated that the grants total on the Finance Report includes several sub-categories, such as these partner grants. All of the categories are considered grants and under the Bylaws they should be approved by the Commission.
- Executive Director Espinoza shared that he has inquired about which Special Events activities could be executed as grants to increase the grants budget.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that programs, such as the 202 Festival and Mayor's Arts Awards engages talents that are delivered as contracts, and that if planning could be done in advance, they could possibly be issued as grants.
- Commissioner Wharton noted that there are legal differences between grants and contracts and to be careful when entering into grant agreements.
- Chair Kendall added she is comfortable with the Bylaws as presented; it is her duty to ensure the Executive Director discusses non-traditional paneled grant processes with the Commission.
- Chair Kendall stated the details associated with executing contracts properly falls on General Counsel Wilson and Executive Director Espinoza.

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- Chair Kendall called for a motion to adopt amended Bylaws as presented. The motion seconded.

The motion carried. Unanimous

Committee Reports

- Finance:
 - Commissioner Friedman requested that the finance report be sent out a few days in advance to allow a review prior to meetings
 - Commissioner Friedman drew attention to a variance of \$25K in Local Grants and explained it is due to 5 new AFP grants that have not been completed.
 - Commissioner Friedman mentioned that \$50K variance in grants relates to an outstanding grant payment.
 - Commissioner Friedman addressed that the \$196K variance in Special Events related to pending grants and contracts for Chuck Brown Day and Mayor's Arts Awards.
 - Executive Director Espinoza answered that these grants and contracts are for artists who were direct selected specifically for Chuck Brown Day and Mayor's Arts Awards.
 - Commissioner Friedman inquired about who direct selects.
 - Executive Director Espinoza responded that he selects for contract services along with the Special Events staff, in keeping with past practice.
 - Chair Kendall suggested making a motion to allow staff to direct-select contracts and any necessary grants for special events, through September as there is not another meeting before then.
 - Commissioner MaryAnn Miller asked if all grants have to go before OCP.
 - Executive Director Espinoza answered no that is not the policy for grants.
 - General Counsel Wilson responded no because DCCAH has the authority to enter into grants and contracts on its own accord.
 - Executive Director Espinoza explained DCCAH has limitations on contracts. Anything over \$100K has to go through OCP.
 - Financial Analyst Busby added that all contracts go through OCP. Anything over \$10K is considered competitive, but DCCAH does have artistic leeway to enter into sole sourced contracts.
 - Executive Director Espinoza noted that many events are still in development and require review from the Mayor's Office.
 - Commissioner Wharton made a motion to accept grants listed on the finance report and to approve funds associated with them in an effort to expedite the process. Commissioner Miller seconded.
 - Commissioner Friedman asked that before she agrees with the motion, is there anything that is going to come up as a grant that the Commission does not already know about.
 - Executive Director Espinoza answered that he does not think there are many things that would change the grant line, and reiterated his goal to fortify grantmaking.
 - Commissioner Wharton volunteered to work with Executive Director Espinoza in fortifying the grant budget as the representative for Commissioner Susan Clampitt (Grants Committee Chair) and herself as Panel Committee Chair.
 - Commissioner Glymph mentioned that the presented Bylaws are for FY2017.
 - Chair Kendall confirmed that there is a motion on the floor for this fiscal year, FY2016 to allow staff to make direct select grants without approval of the Commission.
 - Chair Kendall called for a motion to vote. The motion was seconded.

The motion passed. Unanimous
- Humanities Committee:
 - Commissioner Antoinette Ford suggested that Commissioners attend a Humanitini event.
 - Commissioner Ford expressed that the Humanities Council staff does a good job engaging with community members and residents.

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- Commissioner Ford stated that the Humanities Council is focused on their mission and reflects this on their website and through their grant opportunities.
- Commissioner Ford asked for Commissioners to suggest specific topics or questions they would like her to report on.
- Mayor's Arts Award Committee:
 - Commissioner José Alberto Uclés mentioned that the Committee met a week ago.
 - Commissioner Uclés lauded staff and Commissioner MaryAnn Miller for their help in the artist selection panel.
 - Commissioner Uclés noted the panel was very diverse with representation from the Mayor's Office, DC Office of Planning, visual artists, musicians, theatre and the Duke Ellington School of The Arts.
 - Commissioner Uclés stated there were forty-nine nominations received and thirty were moved to in-person panel discussion. Five winners will be announced at the awards.
 - Commissioner Uclés explained that Executive Director Espinoza has notified the three special honorees announced during June's Full Commission meeting, and that they are to remain confidential until the announcement to the press.
 - Commissioner Uclés reminded the Commission that the Mayor's Arts Awards will take place Thursday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm.
 - Commissioner Uclés told Commissioners that invitations will be printed, but email invitations and 'save the dates' can be sent to those who would prefer to receive an electronic copy.
 - Commissioner Uclés requested that Commissioners send their list of desired attendees to Special Events Manager Ebony Brown, Special Events Associate Jakenna Martin or himself by next week.
- Public Art Committee:
 - Commissioner Alma Gates noted the Howard Theatre Walk of Fame panel met June 24th and chose a design team as the finalist.
 - Commissioner Gates asked Commissioner Wharton to speak about the panel as she was the Convening Commissioner.
 - Commissioner Wharton explained that the panel which consisted of employees from DDOT, the Mayor's Office and a visual artist reviewed three in-person semi-finalist presentations.
 - Commissioner Wharton expressed her satisfaction with the selection, and noted that the panel asked great questions.
 - Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan added the proposed grantee presented a compelling presentation that incorporated Howard Theatre's history into a traditional bronze medallion with an interactive, digital educational tool.
 - Commissioner Miller inquired about when the project is to be completed.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan stated it is to be completed by the end of FY2017.
 - Commissioner Gates motioned to approve expenditure of this as a grant. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
 - Commissioner Gates stated the Barry Statue Commission panel plans to meet August 3rd to choose a finalist.
 - Commissioner Gates noted K Street Gateway panel met June 29th and selected six semi-finalists.
 - Commissioner Gates explained the Washingtonia Collection which launched this year received 71 applications, 2 of which were from galleries. 96 works were selected.
 - Commissioner Gates reminded Commissioners that MuralsDC is an intradistrict transfer from the Department of Public Works (DPW) to help replace graffiti with murals. It is currently in the matching process between artists and property owners to work on 4-6 new murals.
 - Commissioner Gates explained that the Commission had previously approved funding for Deanwood Rocks! restoration and relocation due to vandalism. Artist has proposed to relocate artwork onto the

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property at the recreation center but, due to artist compliance issues, will be unable to complete the project until further notice. The budgeted \$175k will need to be reallocated.

- Commissioner Gates shared a proposal to reallocate the funds to a new murals project. The Agency had received a proposal for a public art murals project from a curator who completed 10 murals in Richmond, VA in 16 days. Based on the success of the project demonstrated in Richmond, VA, Commissioner Gates recommended that a similar public art project take place in DC which ensures the expenditure of public art funds in FY2016 through this innovative project.
- Commissioner Uclés asked if Deanwood Rocks! is being protected and if the artist will be replaced.
- Commissioner Gates responded that the sculpture is currently protected by plywood and it will be restored by the original artist once artist compliance issues are resolved.
- Executive Director Espinoza called Commission's attention to site photos of Deadwood Rocks! and proposed a poster wrap design for plywood to beautify the area.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to reallocate money from Deanwood Rocks! restoration to the plywood wrap design and DC murals project, understanding the pictures for intended murals will be emailed to Commissioners for their approval. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried. Unanimous

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Commissioner Gates lauded staff for creation of weekly Commissioner Bulletin.
- Commissioner Ford inquired about series of business development presentations being held for grantees.
- Executive Director Espinoza responded that Jeffrey Scott's position overlooks this program for artist professional development classes.
- Commissioner Ford added that she would be interested in participating.
- Commissioner Friedman called attention to the first and hopefully annual Spotlight on Arts Education on September 27th from 8:30 am-3:30 pm. It will consist of a national and local panel.
- Commissioner Friedman lauded Arts Education Coordinator David Markey and Deputy Director Michael Bigley for their help in organizing the event.
- General Counsel Wilson reviewed Hatch Act supporting materials that were passed out.
- Commissioner Friedman asked for clarification regarding panelists' eligibility to fundraise.
- General Counsel Wilson explained Commissioners can manage political campaigns and run for non-partisan office, but one cannot fundraise for a partisan political office.
- Commissioner Wharton asked if a Commissioner's spouse is hosting a fundraiser at their house, is the Commissioner allowed to attend.
- General Council Wilson answered yes, Commissioners can attend, but as a public DC employee a Commissioner cannot solicit money or accept money on behalf of anyone running for partisan political office.
- General Council Wilson added that Commissioners can actively organize a meet and greet, but the acceptance of money is prohibited by BEGA who would view it as a political contribution.

Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.