



4.24.14 Minutes

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

4/24/2014

12:00 pm to 12:35 pm

1000 New Jersey Ave., SE

Attending Commissioners: Judith Terra, CHAIR; Lavinia Wohlfarth, VICE CHAIR; Christopher Cowan; Edmund Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; Darrin Glymph; Barbara Jones James E. Laws, Jr.; Rogelio Maxwell; MaryAnn Miller; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Lisa Richards Toney, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Keona Pearson

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on April 24, 2014 at 12:05 pm at 1000 New Jersey Ave., SE, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Acting Chair Lavinia Wohlfarth clarified that not all the committees would be reporting; they were listed on the agenda for the record.
- Commissioner Alma Gates motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of February Minutes

- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman asked that the minutes more clearly reflect her request that Executive Director Lionell Thomas provide the treasure and finance committee with possible dates for a finance committee meeting to be held at the end of April.
- Commissioner Friedman motioned to adopt the February 20th minutes with the aforementioned amendment. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Judith Terra thanked Commissioner Lavinia Wohlfarth for her leadership and support for standing in as Acting Chair during her leave of absence.
- Chair Terra reported that the Office of the Secretary approached the Commission and asked for the Commission's participation along with the Embassy of China in an international panda sculpture project to be unveiled on June 10, 2014
- Chair Terra referenced the information packet which contained the project timeline and budget.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth thanked the Commissioners for attending the dinner and Carmine's on April 8, 2014 and announced plans for a happy hour to be held in early June.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that the five-year public art master plan was nearly complete.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth distributed the beginning of the thoughts outlining the ten-year public art master plan.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth thanked Commissioner Alma Gates for joining the public art committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth thanked all attending Commissioners for making it to the meeting.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Lionell Thomas reported on FY15 budget.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the budget has officially been transmitted to the Council.

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- Executive Director Thomas noted that the proposed FY15 budget has been reconfigured to include the \$5K for public art in local funds
- Executive Director Thomas reported that as a result of a District-wide audit, restrictions have been imposed so that only District-owned assets can be applicable for capital funding.
- Executive Director Thomas reported the agency Performance Oversight Hearing took place on March 25, 2013 and that it went well.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that Councilmember David Grosso (At-Large) posed a number of questions.
- Executive Director Thomas referenced the talking points provided to the Commissioners in their packets on DCCA arts advocacy.
- Executive Director Thomas reminded Commissioners not to publically comment on the budget at this time as it is still being formulated.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton inquired about what came of the legislation that would guarantee a dedicated funding stream for the agency.
- Executive Director Thomas explained that the CAFR report indicated that threshold required to be considered for additional funding was not met by the city; resultantly, additional funding is not available.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the agency is number 16 out of 20 on the Mayor's priority list for additional funding should monies become available.
- Executive Director Thomas clarified that the one-time funding made available in FY14 for the Lincoln Theatre and the Creative Economy Strategy were not included in the proposed FY15 budget.
- Executive Director Thomas noted the FY15 proposed budget for the agency is roughly \$260,000 more than the previous fiscal year.
- Commissioner Wharton inquired about what the sense of the City Council was as it regards to the agency's performance.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that it is his understanding City Council views the agency as high performing.
- Commissioner Gates inquired about what members of the City Council sit on the Committee on Finance and Revenue.
- Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin noted that the Committee was comprised of Committee Chair Evans and Councilmembers Catania, Grosso, Bowser, and Barry.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that in addition to the hearing questions initially proposed by the Committee, Councilmember Grosso posed additional follow-up questions that required written response.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on upcoming agency events.

Public Art Building Communities

- Commissioner James Laws, Jr. recused himself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that the Public Art Building Communities panel met on April 18, 2014 and was co-convened by Commissioner Gates and herself.
- Commissioner Gates added that the both panel and the panel process were fabulous.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that the Public Art Building Communities grant is for individual artists and organizations that allows for the creation of temporary and permanent public art.
- Public Art Coordinator Keona Pearson presented the applications to be considered for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth reminded the Commissioners that the work of the panel and the conveners carry great weight.
- Commissioner Friedman asked for justification on why the one of the proposed works had a short lifespan and inquired if the display of the work could be extended.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth reminded the Commissioners that under the guidelines, temporary works are allowable.

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- Commissioner Wohlfarth went on to note that if the duration of the project was extended, the costs would increase substantially.
- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller inquired what will happen to the banners of one of the proposed projects once they are deinstalled. Does the Commission own them? Could they be reinstalled?
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that as the work was temporary, the quality after the deinstall date would likely not warrant reinstallation.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to accept the panel funding recommendations. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Community Funding Request

- Grants Director Moshe Adams presented the applicants to be considered for funding.
- Director Adams noted the Community Funding Request line-item in the approved budget, particularly the intent and purpose of the Community Funding Request, as well as the process for reviewing requests.
- Commissioner José Alberto Uclés inquired on whether DC Gay Pride Festival or the Latino Festival had submitted a request.
- Director Adams clarified that Black Gay Pride had submitted the request for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth encouraged Commissioner Uclés to bring DC Gay Pride and the Latino Festival to the fore so that they could be considered if they so wished.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to accept the funding recommendations.
- Commissioner Friedman noted that she found the intake process for the Community Funding Requests problematic.
- Commissioner Glymph noted the research he had done to clarify the purpose of the Community Funding Request. He noted that it was designed explicitly for ad hoc requests for funding that come outside of the normal grant-making cycle; further explaining that it is expressly for initiatives brought forward from commissioners and staff, to be reviewed by the full commission for funding.
- Commissioner Miller noted that the organizations being considered for funding would provide additional exposure for the agency drawing more interest and for additional applicants to the Commission for funding in the future.
- Commissioner Wharton suggested a the process for further engagement – Commissioner Wharton asked that Director Adams circulate the Community Funding Request form to the Commissioners so that they can engage members or their respective Wards.
- Chair Terra called the question. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried.

Committee Reports

- There were no committee reports presented.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business presented.

New Business and Announcements

- There was no new business or announcements presented.

Adjournment

- With no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.