



5.15.14 Minutes

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

5/15/2014

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

1000 New Jersey Ave., SE

Attending Commissioners: Judith Terra, CHAIR; Lavinia Wohlfarth, VICE CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Antoinette Ford; Alma Gates; Barbara Jones; James E. Laws, Jr.; MaryAnn Miller; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Lisa Richards Toney, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Earica Busby; Tiara Davis; Melisa Leonard; David Markey; JR Russ

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on May 15, 2014 at 4:00 pm at 1000 New Jersey Ave., SE, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded.
[The motion carried. Unanimous](#)

Adoption of April 24th Minutes

- Commissioner Maryann Miller motioned to adopt the April 24th minutes. The motion was seconded.
[The motion carried. Unanimous](#)

Chairperson's Report

- Commissioner Antoinette Ford was welcomed and briefly introduced herself.
- Chair Judith Terra reported on events over the last month.
- Chair Terra reported that on April 29, 2014 Chair Terra joined Executive Director Lionell Thomas and attended the budget presentation. She reported that DCAH was listed on the additional revenue priority list.
- Chair Terra reported that on May 7, 2014 she joined Executive Director Thomas to review potential events producers for the Mayor's Arts Awards. Deputy Director Lisa Richards Toney reported that it was the first time that the agency had put out a formal call for such a producer, and that three candidates were interviewed.
- Chair Terra reported that on May 8, 2014 she sat on a panel along with Executive Director Thomas at DCAH along with representatives from the Office of Contracting and Procurement to review applicants for the agency's next strategic plan.
- Chair Terra reported that on May 9, 2014 the Commission hosted annual Larry Neal Writers' Awards at Arena Stage. Special recognition was given of David Markey, Arts Education Coordinator for his work.
- Chair Terra highlighted importance of event such as this, one that especially highlights the humanities.
- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller offered special commendation to David Markey and Ariel Wilson.
- Chair Terra reported that a commission for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday commemoration was reinstated by Mayor Vincent Gray. Chair Terra noted that the Commission will not only promote events to honor Dr. King, but to also promote the power of the arts, as well as the word, in his work and legacy.
- Chair Terra reported that the commissioner retreat was very successful; she thanked everyone for being involved and engaged.
- Vice-Chair Lavinia Wohlfarth observed that notes are broad questions of what was discussed and did not offer many answers, noting that was a good starting point.
- Executive Director Thomas mentioned that a final report from the consultant would be warranted.
- Commissioner Ford inquired as to the purpose of the retreat.

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- Commissioner Wohlfarth responded that as the agency moves forward with strategic planning, a retreat was needed to help clarify opportunities and challenges, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and to work on communicating effectively.
- Commissioner Miller reiterated that the purpose of the retreat was to address and improve communication between Commissioners as well as between staff and Commissioners.
- Chair Terra requested that Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin provide the broad sheets of takeaways from the retreat at the meeting in June.
- Chair Terra acknowledged Executive Director Thomas and his induction into the District of Columbia Hall of Fame.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Lionell Thomas recognized Arts Education Coordinator David Markey for revitalizing the intern program.
- Executive Director Thomas introduced Commission summer intern, Tiara Davis.
- Executive Director Thomas introduced Finance Assistant Melisa Leonard who works with Finance Manager Earica Busby.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the Strategic Plan.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the Creative Economy strategy.
- Executive Director Thomas noted his recommendation that with any city-funded project involving public art, the agency should have final review or signoff.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the Cultural Mapping Project.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the City Council Hearings, that our budget would move forward as proposed, and that the agency is still listed on the additional revenue priority list.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the Mayor's budget town hall meetings. Meetings have been well received by the public, noting that they are a chance for education and dialogue with constituents.
- Executive Director Thomas recognized the Grants Department, he reported that the agency is getting more applications; he specifically noted the concern raised by Councilmember Barry regarding grant award funds reaching Wards 7 & 8.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on participating with the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for their Heritage Month Celebration, noting that an event will be held at the Historic Lincoln Theatre on May 30, 2014.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that Curate Your Culture would be incorporated as part of the strategic planning process.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on Art All Night project, noting that five neighborhoods would pilot the program in September.
- Executive Director Thomas concluded by noting the Dance DC Festival.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- The Poet Laureate was not present.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Poet Laureate was involved with the Larry Neal Writers' Awards program and read at the awards.

Public Art Presentation

- Public Art Program Manager Tonya Jordan reported on the Golden Triangle BID project and introduced Elizabeth Carriger, Arts Program Coordinator.
- Coordinator Carriger reported that Commissioner Alma Gates convened the panel, whose recommendations would be presented for a vote on the selection of the artist.
- Coordinator Carriger reported on the project's intentions, as well as the timeline of the process, funding mechanism, and art selection.
- Coordinator Carriger reported on the selected artist.

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- Commissioner Ford inquired about maintenance of the projects.
- Program Manager Tonya Jordan responded that 5 years of maintenance costs were included in the budget.
- National Park Service would be responsible for maintaining the actual structure.
- Program Manager Tonya went on to note that the total budget was \$256,000. \$128,000 of which was coming from the DCCAH and a match coming from the National Park Service.
- Commissioner Gates motioned to adopt the recommendations of the panel. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried.
- Commissioner Gates commended the work of the Public Art team, particularly with the number of organizations involved with each project.

Committee Reports

- Standing Committees
 - Panels Committee
 - Chair Terra acknowledged Commissioner Wharton regarding the Panels committee
 - Commissioner Gretchen Wharton reported on the need for more panelists
 - Chair Terra reported on the need for Commissioner to convene or co-convene each panel
- Internal Committees
 - Arts Education Committee
 - Commissioner Miller reported on the census, with about 24% participation, so far.
 - Commissioner Miller reported additional interns joining the commission this summer.
 - Commissioner Miller reported on the March 2015 Art Creativity Festival.
 - Policy Committee
 - Vice-Chair Wohlfarth gave a brief report on the committee descriptions.
 - Finance Committee
 - Commissioner Gates reported that the budget has been reviewed, and that there are no outstanding questions.
 - Executive Director Thomas reiterated that the agency is on track for spending.
 - Executive Director Thomas reported that Finance Manager Earica Busby is working on drafting two versions of the FY15 budget pending an increase of funding for the agency.
 - Commissioner Gates commended Busby on her work in preparing today's materials.
- Ad Hoc Committees
 - Public Art
 - Vice-Chair Wohlfarth reported on Public Art.
 - Vice-Chair Wohlfarth reported that the current 5-year plan is coming to an end.
 - Vice-Chair Wohlfarth reported the need to move forward with a 10-year Public Arts Master Plan.
 - Vice-Chair Wohlfarth reported that Public Art Bank is a fixed asset of the city. There are 2700 pieces of fine art and 211 public art works, including murals.
 - Commissioner Miller inquired how many pieces are in storage.
 - Program Manager Jordan replied that there are between 200-300 pieces.
 - Commissioner Wohlfarth spoke to importance of having a special collection as a subset of the Public Art Bank, particularly to honor and recognize significant figures in the art community.
 - Commissioner Ford asked if it has been considered the pros and cons of including textiles in the collection.
 - Program Manager Jordan responded that all media are collected including textiles.
 - Commissioner Miller asked if the agency has considered loaning work to commercial and larger businesses downtown as a way to showcase the works in storage.
 - Program Manager Jordan noted that for art to be displayed from Art Bank, the structure does have to be a government building because Art Bank is a government asset.

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- She went on to note that an additional challenge is that some work in storage is work is dated or not in the condition to be displayed.
- Commissioner Gates reported on working at the American Association from Museums for years, noting that they have policies in place based on the status of the art, the age, etc. to remove it from the collection.
- This statement opened a larger conversation on deaccessioning.
- Commissioner Ford recommended that we explore comparable policies in other cities.
- Commissioner Wharton asked if there are other departments in the city that have written policy for surplus property; she went on to query what government agency handles with excess property?
- Commissioner Jones expressed concerns about deaccessioning with particular regard to artists regarding the artist whose work has been acquired.
- Chair Terra recommended that this conversation go to the public art committee to move forward.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to continue the work of the Public Art Master Plan, beyond the five year plan. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Chair Terra revisited the motion from the retreat, regarding Commissioner Laws to motion to have a Full Commission meeting every month. If there was not a quorum for a Full Commission meeting, then the meeting turns into an Executive Committee meeting.
- Chair Terra went on to question what would happen theoretically if quorum of an Executive Committee meeting is not met.
- Commissioner Ford said that according to Robert Rules, it is allowed for a Full Commission meeting to state that a quorum is a number of the members present, and that they do not have to be Executive Committee members.
- Concern was expressed about Executive Committee making decisions that the Full Commission was not aware of.
- Commissioner Clampitt pointed out that the agency bylaws state that the Full Commission meets once a month, so no action is needed. The Commission should meet monthly as stated.
- Commissioner Ford inquired what a quorum was; Director Baatin responded that it was half of the number of the full Commission body.

Adjournment

- Commissioner Gates motioned to adjourn. With no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.