

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 22, 2010 (rescheduled from June 14)

Members Present: Alderman Frances Clark, Dorreth Cole, Jennifer Delmonico, Douglas Hausladen, Robert Parker, Aleta Staton, Nghi Thai. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell **Members Absent:** Su-Lin Carbonelli, Ife Gardin, Perkins Foss, Mark Julius Potocsny, Dean Sakamoto, Janna Wagner. **Guest:** Slate Ballard (Commission appointment pending), Bennett Lovett-Graff (New Haven Review)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 5:55 p.m. Introductions were made to pending commission member Slate Ballard.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Revisit upon a quorum

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Events: The Market New Haven concert series, *Music on the Green* is scheduled for July 17, 24 and 31. Opening acts start at 6pm and headliners at 7pm. This year's performers include Sister Sledge, New Haven Symphony Orchestra and Los Lobos.

The *July 4th fireworks*, initially canceled due to budget constraints, will now be held at East Rock Park on a smaller scale with financial support from IKEA by the Parks Department in coordination with their previously planned fundraising picnic, the proceeds of which will establish an endowment for the renovated Soldiers and Sailors monument.

Blues, Berries and Jam, the noontime concert series on the Green coordinated by Randy Borofsky, formerly of Ultra Radio is scheduled to begin in mid July. DCA provides modest support to the event.

DCA and Transportation, Traffic and Parking with support from Elm City Cycling are again presenting the *Summer Cycling Celebration* at East Rock Park which was so well received in 2008. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 17 from 9am-5pm. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, free carousel and ferris wheel rides and other entertainment in addition to the park being closed all day to vehicular traffic so that the public might cycle freely.

The 2010 *Holiday Tree Lighting* event is still unconfirmed, however there has been some activity by the unions and the public to raise funds for the tree budget and Barbara feels confident the city will have a tree this year. If that turns out to be true, DCA will produce a tree lighting ceremony as previously planned. We will know more in the coming months.

Mayors Community Arts Grant Program: Grant applications for the program were due June 3, 2010. Thirty-two applications were submitted with 8 first time applicants and 11 smaller organizations and 2 individual artists. A jury of representatives from the Cultural Affairs Commission and the community will convene in upcoming weeks to review the applications and allocate funding.

Percent for Art: The final jury meeting for the Hill Central School Percent for Art was recently convened and artist Duvyian Montoya was selected for the commission. Montoya proposed a Community Harvest mural painted in acrylics for the cafeteria wall and interactive artwork on garden stakes that the school children will help create relating to growth and positive community engagement. A final report will be forwarded to the Commission for review and approval shortly.

Public Art: A \$20k grant has been awarded from the Connecticut Commission for Culture and Tourism – History Division for the completion of the city’s inventory of public art. GPS coordinates will be incorporated into the inventory for use in the city’s GIS mapping system.

Project Storefronts: DCA is in the process of securing storefront space in the former United Way offices on Orange Street in the Ninth Square for the pilot storefront program. Project proposals are being fine tuned with the artists with the goal of opening the storefronts in mid-late July, 2010.

New Haven Jazz Festival: The festival produced by the all-volunteer organization Jazz Haven will be held August 14 and August 21 on the New Haven Green. DCA is again providing marketing assistance and sponsoring the event.

New Haven Sister Cities: The bike tour hosted by Sister Cities on Saturday, June 19 as part of the International Festival was well received with more than 20 riders participating. Stops representing New Haven’s various sister cities included short presentations about the relationships/history, refreshments and activities for riders.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan: Lamb presented an outline for the proposed creation of a Cultural Development Authority which evolved out of some of the research related to the AMS Strategic Plan exercise. Such an Authority could expand the responsibilities of the Dept of Cultural Affairs while elevating its public stature. Commissioners were interested in researching models from other cities which have been successful. A small subcommittee including Doug Hausladen, Slate Ballard, Aleta Staton and Bitsie Clark expressed interest in meeting to further explore possibilities.

V. NEW BUSINESS

New Haven Poet Laureate: Bennett Lovett-Graff was present to address the Commission about his idea to establish a poet laureate position for the city and shared a draft of a *Call for Artists*. The Commission expressed support for the concept and assistance for moving the idea forward. The two year post would be effective this coming December 2010 and run for a two year term until December 2012 and include at least four public reading appearances. DCA staff will work with Bennett to move this forward in a timely basis.

In the absence of a quorum, Delmonico requested the discussion be revisited at the July 2010 meeting with commissioners who were not currently in attendance.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JULY 14 AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.