

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

06/11/2018, Belmont Public Library, Flett Room

Meeting started at 7:20 pm

2018 OCT -9 AM 8:59

ATTENDING: JULIET JENKINS (chair), JENNIFER ANGEL, JOHN BABOIAN, SARAH FREIBERG ELLISON (secretary), ANNETTE GOODRO (treasurer), NANCY LINDE, ARLYN ROFFMAN

ABSENT: LAURIE GIANOTTI, NORAH PIEHL, REBECCA RICHARDS

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: Accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The town will soon be sending letters to aspiring members, and Annette can do another year—and is happy to continue as treasurer. Annette was unable to get a current account balance, but since we haven't spent any money, there is at least \$452 in the account, plus a bit of interest. If we haven't spent \$153 by September, it will have to be returned. That should be the minimum to spend on a sandwich board or banner to bring to events. We need signage—from either Vista Print or Belmont Printing—with some kind of logo. Sarah and Rebecca had planned to look at possibilities. The BCC voted to hold back the 5% maximum from upcoming year allocations, which will most likely be \$250, for administrative expenses. While we have tabled the website project, we also discussed other, less expensive options for a Belmont Arts listing—either on line or in print.

GRANT UPDATES:

Reminder to get grant reimbursements to Annette in a timely fashion. Annette e-mailed the BCC the list of applicants on June 5, but will resend it with updates.

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY REPORT:

For Fall 2018 report. Suggested changes for next survey in 3 years will be forthcoming. Got 95 responses—a significant increase from the previous survey—and more responses were on line than manual. In general, survey takers have lived in Belmont more than 10 years, were mostly female, aged 45-54, about half have children under 18, and most wanted to see more. In terms of what types of arts and culture they would like to see in Belmont, the results were pretty evenly divided among all the choices, with Art exhibits and Interpretive science programs getting slightly less than the others (school enrichment programs; concerts; fairs/festivals; classes in art, music, dance or writing). We can thus say that based on community input, we can fund these six things, and most wanted to see more serve families and teens. Three years ago, community wide events seemed important, but not this time.

One thing that is clear from the survey, very few responders had attended any of the programs we have funded in the past year, and few knew about us or our Facebook page. And most people learn about local arts and culture events by word of mouth.

2019 GRANT CYCLE PROCESS:

Going forward, are we motivated to carry forward to make website/handout?

We will plan to have a September meeting, most likely on September 5th, 2018, to get things in place for the grant cycle. There was much discussion about how we want to use our funds—with many suggestions of funding fewer projects, but funding them more fully.

BCC VISIBILITY:

Nancy worries that we aren't reaching folks. She brought some arts brochures for us to look at, and there was discussion around a more simplified website and/or a simple handout, with names and websites of Belmont cultural organizations. We could possibly be the nexus of some sort of marketing, since folks clearly don't know we exist.

We want to be visible at Meet Belmont, which will happen in late August. We should have a banner or sandwich board by then—and could we have a catalog by then?

Porchfest needs volunteers—not just performers. Nancy wondered about having the Belderbus take seniors around for Porchfest.

Habitat at the Belmont Farmers Market once a month through the summer—if any BCC members can go, that would be great.

NEW BUSINESS:

New members are encouraged to apply, and BCC members should also write to the Selectmen on their behalf.

Norah Peale will likely be stepping down, but has submitted reimbursement forms, so no one needs to take on the grants she shepherded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Freiberg Ellison, secretary