

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

11/15/2018, Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 4

Meeting started at 7:12 pm

2018 DEC 12 AM 8:57

ATTENDING: JULIET JENKINS (chair), SARAH FREIBERG ELLISON, (secretary), ANNETTE GOODRO (treasurer), NANCY LINDE, NIEN LIU, REBECCA RICHARDS, MARSHA SEMUELS

ABSENT: JENNIFER ANGEL, JOHN BABOIAN, SHONOL MALIK, GRACE PENG, ARLYN ROFFMAN

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: Accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The amount of money we can give away this cycle is \$5450.00.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Annette will bring the banner to the December 2nd Arlington-Belmont Chorale event. The event is now up on our Facebook page. Sarah has 6 complimentary tickets for the event and will get them to interested BCC members.

DENIAL DISCUSSIONS: The purpose of tonight's meeting is to decide on which 2019 applications to deny, so that Juliet can send out the denial letters in a timely manner, as the denied applicants have 15 days to contest the denials before acceptance letters can go out. At the next meeting, we will decide on specific amounts to give to the accepted applications.

In discussing denials, we also debated some of the provisionally approved applications, such as 3. Porchfest. John is the liaison, and was unable to attend today, but we agreed that the approval letter should focus on what we would want to fund—a video by the Belmont Media Center would have more lasting visibility than the funding requested. Also, 13. Habitat at the Farmers' Market—we had questions about venue and theme variation. Jenny will follow up.

The sample disapproval letter states that applications are denied because:

- The project isn't clearly related to the arts, humanities, or sciences.
- The project did not provide enough public benefit for our community compared to other proposals we received.
- The proposed project did not meet an additional requirement outlined in our council priorities: *[Insert reason for disapproval, from your council priorities.]* In our online BCC statement on the MCC website, we state that outside applicants are required to secure the sponsorship of a Belmont

organization or individual. Tonight, we also discussed adding two other reasons for disapproval—repeating the same projects each year and quality of the project.

Based on the above criteria, the BCC unanimously voted to deny nine of the applications:

- 5. Woman's Club
- 7. Judy Garland
- 14. Aphrodite
- 15. Butterflies of the World
- 16. Soap Box Derby
- 17. Selfie
- 18. Jazz to Hip Hop
- 23. Paint Break
- 24. SETU

Many of these were denied for a lack of public benefit, and specifically benefit to a large number of the citizens of Belmont. We would like to encourage the Soap Box Derby group to apply again, if they can perhaps display or show their cars to the larger school population. And Paint Break is a wonderful, meaningful program, but doesn't really have a Belmont impact. We would like to encourage the Woman's Club to find a plan to see where they can best spend their money—not simply signage.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, December 6th. However, we need at least seven members for a quorum at each meeting, and we are worried about having seven members at that meeting. Juliet will poll the BCC and possibly move the meeting to Wednesday, December 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Freiberg Ellison

Documents used at meeting:

- 11/15/18 Agenda
- Meeting minutes 11/01/18
- LCC Broad Guidelines
- MCC Sample Disapproval Letter