

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

10/30/19 Belmont Town Hall, Room 4, Meeting started at 7:03pm
2019 NOV 15 AM 10:03

ATTENDING: JULIET JENKINS (Chair), ANNETTE GOODRO (Treasurer), EVE ALPERN, JENNIFER ANGEL, EVELYN CORSINI, NANCY LINDE, ROBERT NALBANDOV, MILLIE RAHN, REBECCA RICHARDS, ARLYN ROFFMAN (secretary for 10/30/19), MARSHA SEMUELS, KAREN TWIETMEYER, MAY YE

ABSENT: SARAH ELLISON, BETHANY MURRAY, SHONOL MALIK, NIEN LIU (submitting resignation)

MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2019 MEETING: Accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our allocation for FY2020 is \$6800. We voted to hold back 5% (\$340) to spend on administrative costs (e.g. a reception/website maintenance). There is \$127 left over unspent from last year's hold back for administrative costs, which is required to be returned to grants, and a small amount of interest earned on the account was added to make the number manageable. Total to be granted this year is \$6,590.

We have \$759.76 in accumulated interest, and together with the holdback of \$340, the amount available for administrative costs is \$1,099.76. Treasurer noted accumulated interest funds can also be turned over to grants.

Juliet provided an update on the Payson Park concert which is to take place in December at the Beech Street Center.

VOTING ON BCC COUNCIL-ORIGINATED GRANT (COG):

There was discussion about using funds for a COG just to the extent of bringing our outside granting to the point of last year's giving level. The maximum would be \$1020 (15% of the allocation of \$6,800).

The Council voted to approve funding for the council-originated grant for \$1,000. Per Treasurer's calculation, \$5590 is the total that we have for granting this year to applicants.

Jenny described the concept of the BCC COG proposal. The goal is to raise the visibility of the BCC, ultimately so people know they can apply for funding from us.

Part I of the COG is a map:

The map will share the resources in Belmont that pertain to arts, culture, and interpretive sciences - e.g. Belmont Gallery of Art, the woodland garden at the library, Lone Tree Hill, historic homes, Belmont Media Center, Habitat for Humanity. It could include certain givens, such as Porchfest and the UU coffee house. There was discussion as to the form this will take -

perhaps being a trail/Google map equivalent to show where Belmont resources are. It could be interactive. Jenny has gotten one bid for ~\$900 to build the site but will seek more bids. Marsha proposed that we explore finding a high school student to take this on as a project.

Juliet asked what would happen if the project were only funded at 50%. Jenny responded that this will affect the amount of support they get from the web developer.

Eve wondered if the project really needed to be a map... could it start as a list, which would still draw attention to the green spaces, etc.

Robert suggested we could make this self-sustaining by charging the art spaces and galleries, etc. to pay for a trolley that could take people around town to the various spots.

Part II of the COG is an art walk:

Part II is to launch the map by having an art walk. Marsha described this portion of the proposal. People would use the map to go around to the various listed locales and get stamped at each to show they've gone to them. Artists could be invited to hold open studios. We would need 5-6 cultural co-sponsors- e.g. each site would provide its own refreshments and conduct some engaging activity (e.g. hands-on experience).

The proposed scheduling would be to hold the arts walk in the fall of 2020, perhaps in early October, considering the calendar of other events in town. Marsha will report back at next meeting on the best date to suggest, after reviewing the various town organization calendars.

The question arose related to funding: whether the \$1020 available would be evenly divided between the two parts of the proposal. At this point in time it appears the map/list of cultural activities needs more of the funds than the art day.

Another question came up re: the target audience would be. For sure the COG should include family-friendly events among the others.

Marsha expressed concern about taking money from the grantees. Juliet responded that we have delayed doing a COG in the past due to that same concern, but that we are in a better position financially now and that MCC is encouraging towns to move in this direction.

Motion: Juliet moved to vote in favor of a \$1000 COG, entitled, "Turning a Spotlight on Arts and Culture in Belmont". The goal is to hold the art walk by October. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Committees were formed to move ahead on the COG:

Art Walk committee: Marsha, Rebecca, Evelyn, Robert, Annette

Map committee: Jenny, Nancy, Juliet and Vickie will work on the map.

REVIEW OF GRANT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

We briefly reviewed guidelines and procedures the state sent to members.

DENIALS OF 2020 GRANTS BASED ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH OUR STATED PRIORITIES:

We voted on any grants that did not meet criteria.

#2 lack of local partner

#3 lack of local partner

#6 lack of local partner

#25 lack of local partner

DISTRIBUTION OF REMAINING GRANTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

Grants were assigned to all members present. New members should consider more experienced members a resource as they work their way through the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nancy will look into an insert with the light bills re: our grant recipients.

March 15th there will be a reception at the Belmont Gallery for this year's grant recipients. All members introduced themselves and new members were warmly welcomed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlyn Roffman, Acting Secretary