

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

12/3/19 Belmont Town Hall, Room 4, Meeting started at 7:05 pm 2020 JAN -9 AM 9:08

ATTENDING:

EVE ALPERN, JENNIFER ANGEL, EVELYN CORSINI, SARAH ELLISON, ANNETTE GOODRO, JULIET JENKINS (Chair), NANCY LINDE, MILLIE RAHN, ARLYN ROFFMAN

ABSENT:

SHONOL MALIK, ROBERT NALBANDOV, REBECCA RICHARDS, MARSHA SEMUELS, KAREN TWIETMEYER, MAY YE

1. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING:

Accepted without alteration.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT ON AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR GRANTS:

No new information.

3. DISCUSSION ABOUT GRANTS IN RELATION TO FUNDING PRIORITIES:

- a. Two issues arose from recent contact with grant applicants. 1) Although funding individual artists is less common for the Belmont Cultural Council, the membership still wants to keep its options open to do so under the right conditions. 2) The funding priorities should be refined to emphasize that special consideration is given to applicants who are from Belmont and/or have partnered with a Belmont organization. We should also strengthen the language that indicates that each grant must benefit the town of Belmont and its residents. Two members (Evelyn and Millie) agreed to present updated versions of the funding priorities AFTER we receive the community input.
- b. The committee took up the reconsideration of Grant #2 (Songs of Harmony). In this case, the applicant is not from Belmont nor has a Belmont partner been secured. For those reasons, the motion to deny funding for this grant was passed unanimously. The applicant will be advised to try again if she can recruit a local partner.
- c. Sarah Ellison discussed the Turkish Music grant application (Grant #10), which she followed up on after the last meeting. In this case, the applicant did not have a local venue, so Sarah suggested to the applicant that he have a chat with the Belmont Public Library. As a result, the BPL decided to fund a related, but different, project with the applicant. The Council discussed the merits of the amended project (now called East Dances with West) and voted unanimously to support the project at a significantly reduced amount (since the bulk of the funding would now come from the Library).

4. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY:

Discussion about this year's survey of community input resulted in the decision to create a poll and post it on the Belmont Cultural Council's Facebook page. To encourage the widest possible participation, the poll will be limited to three questions. The suggested questions were: 1) What arts/cultural events (outside of the schools) did you attend in Belmont in the past year?; 2) What do you feel is missing in the cultural life of Belmont?; and 3) If you had \$1,000 to support arts, culture, and interpretive science programs and events in Belmont, what would you spend it on? Each council member is tasked with coming to our January meeting having polled three members of their community and coming with responses to these questions. Jenny will work on adding this to the Facebook page. Juliet will attempt to get this on the Belmont Town website and the Belmont Cultural Council website.

5. REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL GRANT REQUESTS:

More than two weeks have passed since the grant disapproval letters were sent out. Therefore, the Council was free to discuss the remaining grant applications and determine the final funding amounts. Each remaining project was discussed in relation to the funding that is available (\$ 6590 in total) and that the project merited. The following fifteen projects and final amounts were approved in a unanimous vote:

#	Project Title	Final Grant Amount
#1	Greek Dinner and Music	\$ 300
#4	Belmont World Film's 17th Annual Family Festival	\$ 300
#5	Lending Library at the Benton	\$ 400
#8	Payson Park Music Festival Concert: Soggy Po' Boys	\$ 500
#10	East Dances with West	\$ 100
#13	Belmont Porchfest, Inc	\$ 940
#15	Climate Change Education at Belmont Farmers Market	\$ 350
16	Around the World: An Art Show by Butler Students	\$ 200
#17	Arl-Bel Chamber Chorus Not-Quite-Winter Concert	\$ 400
#20	Graphic Novels and Literacy, with Dr. Laura Jiménez	\$ 100
#21	Beautifying Belmont's Transformer Boxes	\$ 1,000
#22	Rambax Performance at Multicultural Night	\$ 300
#23	The Incredible Mae West	\$ 450
#26	Wampanoag Presentation (Butler School)	\$ 250
--	Council originated Arts List and Walk	\$ 1,000

6. NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Notification of grant approvals will go out as soon as Juliet informs the membership that her final report has been submitted to the Mass Cultural Council (expected date 12/18/19). The approval letter and documents that must be sent to each successful applicant were reviewed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The date of the **next meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 2020 (7-9PM)**. Among the topics for that meeting is a discussion of the Council originated project, the **Belmont Arts Walk and Arts Day**. A rough draft of the project's mission and goals (created after a subcommittee meeting was

held on November 22, 2019) was read aloud and will be submitted for further discussion in January. Jenny Angel announced that the expected launch date for the Arts Walk will be October 25, 2020. Jenny will organize a subcommittee meeting.

It was decided to **schedule an additional meeting on February 5, 2020 (7-9PM)** in which a key topic will be the Spring Reception for grantees at the Belmont Gallery of Art.

Finally, discussion took place about the how best to use the promotional insert in the Belmont Light Bills. The options are: 1) to announce the new grantees, 2) to promote the launch of the Arts Walk, or 3) to recruit new grant applicants for 2020. A final decision was tabled until more information is available. Meanwhile Nancy will explore the possibility of a new logo design with a graphic artist she's been working with and she will notify Belmont Light that a final decision has not yet been made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Linde, Acting Secretary