

Belmont Cultural Council
November 10, 2011 minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35

Present: Sarah Freiberg Ellison (chair), Jirair Hovsepian, Ilyse Robbins
Mohr, Anne Quirk, Rebecca Richards, Christine Sandvik

Absent: Sara Bruya, Alessandra Cooper, Anne Levy, Ken Stalberg

Sarah Freiberg opened the meeting by reading an email from treasurer Ken Stalberg, who was unable to attend. He reported that the BCC has \$3676.50 to spend from its annual state allocation and an additional \$1139 in its town account.

The 2012 applications were then discussed in detail, as follows.

1 Yetti Frenkel, Creating Writing program at Belmont Public Library

Rebecca Richards was generally quite enthusiastic about program, a success in the past, but did express some concern about the large size of requested grant (\$1000) and the small size of its potential audience (at most 25 children). She recommended partial funding.

2 Kate Carney, Paul Revere's Mother in Law performance at Beech Street Center

Anne Quirk was quite enthusiastic about this program, presented by a proven crowd pleaser at the Beech Street Center, and recommended full funding, provided that the COA is not receiving a disproportionate share of the BCC's limited funds.

3 Field Trip, Butler School

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

4 Shane Wood, Jazz Trio

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

5 Kathleen Fahey, Juliette Low performance

Anne Quirk recommended denial of this application because the subject matter, Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, was likely to interest only Girl Scouts.

6 Richard Clark, Mark Twain performance

In the absence of Anne Levy, Sarah Freiberg read her report on the application, which was quite enthusiastic. However, she is hoping to get the venue changed from the Beech Street Center, which largely serves as older audience, to a spot more congenial for high school students studying Twain.

7 Henry Lappan, Juggler

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

8 John Root, Edible Flowers lecture

In the absence of Sara Bruya, Sarah Ellison read her report on the application, which was generally supportive.

9 Butler School, Kite Building

In the absence of Anne Levy, Sarah Ellison read her report on the application, which was very enthusiastic and recommended funding.

10 Powers Music School

In the absence of Ken Stalberg, Sarah Ellison read his preliminary report, which expressed enthusiasm for the project but also stated that he needed more time to make a final recommendation.

11 Belmont Historical Society, Brigade Band

Christine Sandvik reported that while the project was intriguing, no definite venue or date had been fixed for the project, which suggested that the question of audience was still open. She assigned this a low priority for funding.

12 Ed Cope, Reading is Magic

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

13 Edward Witt, Blues Brother Tribute

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

14 Wellington PTO, Owl Lady

In the absence of Sara Bruya, Sarah Ellison read her report on the application, which was highly enthusiastic and recommended full funding.

15 Chenery School, Ball in the House

Ilyse Mohr was very enthusiastic about this a capella event, which has already been presented and was very popular with the perennially hard to please middle school crowd. She recommended funding.

16 Paul Bouchard, Big Bands

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

17 Peter McNeany, Tequilla Amigos

Previously denied, with letter already sent by Sarah Ellison.

18 Denise Doucette, Musical Program

Rebecca Richards deferred her report until the next BCC meeting, when she hopes to have more information

19 Marble Collection, Mentoring Program

In the absence of Ken Stalberg, Sarah Ellison read his preliminary report, which expressed enthusiasm for the project but also stated that he needed more time to make a final recommendation.

20 Chenery PTO, Odaiko New England

Christine Sandvik expressed great enthusiasm for this drumming event, which will be seen by 600 children, but she recommended partial funding due to the BCC's limited budget.

21 Belmont High, Costumes for Beauty and the Beast

Ilyse Mohr was very impressed by the thoroughness of the applicant's efforts to find affordable costumes and believes that the production will reach a large and grateful audience of all ages. Due to the BCC's limited budget, she recommends partial funding.

22 Belmont World Film, Afghan documentaries

Jirair Hovsepian was very enthusiastic about this proposal, which funds a portion of the rental fees for ten short films to be shown at both the Studio Cinema and the Benton Library. He recommended full funding. Rebecca Richards, who is on the board of the Belmont World Film Festival, recused herself from the discussion.

23 REES Foundation, Film

Rebecca Richards recommended denial of this application, which has no local connection or local sponsor.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Belmont Art Gallery, which the town officially considers part of the BCC, despite its separate budget and separate board. A new volunteer director, replacing the nearly irreplaceable Nan Rodgers, is likely to be appointed soon. Both Christine Sandvik and Rebecca Richard, who are also on the gallery board, believe this is an ideal time for the BCC and the gallery board to brainstorm about the future of the gallery. An early 2012 joint meeting was suggested and approved in principle.

In closing, Sarah Ellison reminded the committee that her tenure as BCC president is nearly over and that a new president must be chosen.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 21st, at 7:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Minutes submitted by Anne Quirk, Secretary