

Belmont Cultural Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2002 Meeting
Town Hall

In Attendance: Nan Rogers, Neely McNulty, Patty Mihelich, Phil Hughes, Harriet Barnett, Carlha Vickers, Trey Klein

Absent: Barbara Owens, Jennifer Smith, Rebecca Richards, and Viva Fisher

- 1) The goal of this meeting was to decide which grants would be approved and which would be declined. We did not seek to determine how much to fund each of the grants we approved. Minutes to describe brief overview of grant presentations by BCC members.
- 2) Trey presented grant (08) Community Through Film. Based on grant application, project proposal, community interest already generated, scheduling of project (after Martin Luther King breakfast), and project connection to numerous town organizations, Trey recommended that we consider funding this grant. Grant remains open.
- 3) Nan presented grants (01) New England Jazz concert and (02) Music of the Swing Era using input received from Barbara via e-mail. Barbara suggested that we fund the Swing concert. As she explained it, this is highly popular music that is not readily available to the public. Barbara did not suggest we fund the New England Jazz concert, as this application was a boilerplate application with little support material. The BCC members in attendance then passed the two applications around, and as a group felt neither application was particularly well conceived. In the past we have connected grant winners with Belmont organizations. This year our Belmont Cultural Council grant guidelines specifically states that we give preference to Belmont artists and that grant applicants must have a letter of support from a Belmont organization, or grant applicant must state intention to collaborate with a Belmont resident. Neither of these grants stated plans to collaborate with a Belmont organization or citizen. The Belmont Cultural Council has recently fully funded both of these applicants to perform at the Payson Park Music Festival (Grant 01 in FY '01 and Grant 02 in FY '02). Grants (01) and (02) will not be funded.
- 4) Phil presented grants (13) Denise Doucette and grant (04) Ruth Harcovitz. Both grants propose to bring music to seniors at the Belmont Senior Center, and both are programs that have been well received by the seniors in the past. Because of less funding this year, the BCC members proposed that we fund only one program. The Belmont Cultural Council fully funded Denise Doucette in FY '02 to perform with the Council on Aging at the Belmont Senior Center and will not be funded in FY '03. Grant (04) remains open.
- 5) Nan presented grant (10) Alarm Clock Theatre Company using input from Rebecca Richards. Rebecca concluded that this is not a program appropriate of BCC funding. The connection this program has to Arlington is tenuous, as they chose to site their production in Arlington based on rental fees, not based on whom they would serve. As to the issue of Belmont students getting to see this production, the theatre company would be willing to send out education packets and press kits to Belmont which in no way guarantees that any Belmont residents would see it. They also agreed to save on performance for school aged children, but did not indicate which school aged children would see the production. This grant will not be funded.
- 6) Neely presented grant (11) Behind the Mask Theatre. While very original and well written, this grant will reach only 50 children at best. It is clear also that without our funding, this production will still run. BCC is interested in encouraging Eric Bornstein to pursue future grant monies through collaboration with Town organizations. This grant will not be funded.

- 7) Trey presented (06) Kiernan Quinn. Trey made numerous documented e-mail contacts with the artist to get more information about the proposed project because the grant application does not fully address some of the application questions. Kiernan Quinn was asked to provide support material but denied request. This application is incomplete. This grant will not be funded.
- 8) Group discussed potential use of interest funds, then closed with final vote on which grants to fund. Patty proposed that we not fund the following grants: (01), (02), (03), (06), (09), (10), (11), (13). Phil seconded the motion. BCC voted in favor of not funding the aforementioned grants.

Minutes submitted by Neely Holt McNulty

November 13, 2002

Minutes approved at the December 5, 2002 Belmont Cultural Council meeting