

Belmont Cultural Council

November 3, 2005

Location: Conference Room One, Town Hall

In attendance: Viva Fisher, Rebecca Richards, Carlha Vickers, Oz Barron, Patty Mihelich, Juliet Jenkins, Dietlinde Hamburger, Susan Smart

The meeting was convened at 7:40 p.m. The members VOTED to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2005 meeting. New member Juliet Jenkins was welcomed to the council.

The members then presented their preliminary recommendations regarding their assigned grants, and, in particular, their funding recommendations regarding FY2006 applications.

Ms. Hamburger presented four applications, mostly school-sponsored projects. On her recommendation, the group VOTED to deny the Delvena Theater Company application because of its lack of a local partner. She recommended partial funding for the Winn Brook program, "Paul Revere's Midnight Ride," and also for the Wellington School's program, "Rainforest Legends." Full funding was recommended for the New Repertory Theater's proposed production of *The Glass Menagerie* at the Chenery Middle School. Regarding the last, Ms. Fisher asked that DH contact Sara Ewing of the Mass Cultural Council to see if the scheduled performance date, November 17, 2005, would be premature in terms of funding, as grant funds will not be released until January. Ms. Smart asked if schools are exempt from the MCC's non-dependency funding guideline. Ms. Richards responded that the programs are different; but that council members may consider this issue in the final funding decisions.

Ms. Mihelich presented three applications. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of each, council members VOTED to deny the NESPAD web update/promotion application because it did not address a demonstrated local need. Members also VOTED to deny funding for the Belmont World Film's one-time screening of *Two Tours of Jasper* in Spring 2006 (BAR local partner), and to keep open for consideration the funding of the Belmont World Film student filmmakers project, which recruits participants through the Belmont Youth Commission. In doing so, council members expressed their preference for a program that promotes life-skills development among the community's youth. Council members noted that a reasonable stipulation should be that the products (screenings) of said student filmmakers' projects be open to the public.

The council VOTED, with Ms. Vickers' recommendation, to deny the application from Project Concern's hip hop dance performance, for want of a local partner; and deny Southern Rail's application for a concert at Belmont Manor, noting that this private venue did not satisfy MCC guidelines for public access. Discussion of Belmont Day School's

International Festival and Jane Sherwin's "The Farm Where You Live" presentation was carried over to the next meeting.

On the recommendation of Ms. Smart, the council VOTED to deny the application from Robert Thomas for the "Larry Blotter" presentation, for want of a local partner. The council also VOTED to deny funding for veteran performer Denise Doucette's proposed concert at the Belmont Council on Aging (senior center) in compliance with the MCC non-dependency requirement. Consideration of a new performer, musician John Root, would be more in keeping with the MCC philosophy and guidelines. The members also agreed to consider funding for the proposed BCA performance, *Jerry Atrick*, ranked as a 'top priority' program by the BCA staff.

Following a presentation of the "Reading is Magic" and Buck Expedition programs by Mr. Barron, the council VOTED to deny funding for both, for lack of local partners.

Ms. Richards presented three visual arts-oriented applications. The council VOTED to carry over for consideration the grant requests of BGA exhibiting artists Wagner and Wentzell, with a recommendation for partial funding. The council VOTED to deny funding to the "Introduction to the Art of Pastels" workshop, for want of a local partner.

On Ms. Fisher's recommendation, the council then VOTED to deny funding for the concert by Wirt and the Bastarache "Music of the Swing Era" performance, both for want of local partners.

The business of identifying denied applications concluded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Smart

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.