

Belmont Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes, November 5th, 2007--revised

In attendance: Rebecca Harrold-Dasilva; Victoria Campos; Eunice Chan; Juliet Jenkins; Patty Mihelich; Sarah Freiberg-Ellison

Meeting came to order at 7:40.

First order of business was to o.k. the minutes from the September 26th meeting.

Patty mentioned that meetings for the BCC must be publicized 48 hours before they occur, or we would be unable to hold binding votes for the ensuing meeting.

We then discussed the upcoming meetings and agreed on one to be held November 13th, and then to hold another either on Monday, November 26th or Tuesday, November 27th.

There was some discussion on how long the grantees have to complete their grants-and we found that they have a complete year from when the grant has been granted to them.

Juliet in her new role as treasurer, said we might consider funding fewer artists more completely, because partial funding is not only a treasurer's nightmare, but also can be taken not as seriously by the artists.

Then we discussed the 21 grants that had been submitted to us by the October 15th deadline. All members of the BCC had taken 2-3 grants to peruse and report on.

Here are applications in numerical order, our comments and recommendations, and whether each application was denied or tabled for further discussion at a later date.

1. Sarah reported that TransCultural Exchange wants to fund scholarships for 2 needy Belmont artists to attend their 2009 conference. (Deadlines for the conference are in 2008, hence the request for the upcoming year.) Thorny issues include: little community benefit, no community sponsor and a request for the BCC to do a lot of the work. We agreed to table this until a further meeting.
2. The Wirt concert was denied. Patty stated that we have funded this performance in previous years, but with the Payson Park Music Festival as local partner. This year, there was no local partner.
3. Cope's "Reading is Magic" was also denied. Mr. Cope has applied before, but has yet to get a local sponsor-he needs to connect with a local school or preschool before applying.
4. We skipped Ottavio Forte's Garden Steel Structures proposal because Mary was not at the meeting to report on it.
5. Eunice discussed Gregory Maichack's proposed "Art of Pastels" workshop at the Belmont Public Library. Eunice needs to confirm the support of the library, and perhaps check with other towns that have supported Mr. Maichack's workshops in the past. This item was tabled for further discussion.
6. The Waverly Arts Murals: Patty read Laura's report, since Laura was unable to attend the meeting. The Trapelo Road murals have already been started at the Belmont Studio Cinema, with support from local businesses, including the theater. We wanted to make sure that permits were not an issue, so we tabled it.
7. "Comtempaissance" was denied a grant. As Patty pointed out, they had no local partner.

8. We skipped Kaetlyn Wilcox's project because Mary was not there to report on it.
9. Belmont Public Library's "One Book One Belmont" project-reported by me. Request for funding to have projects for all ages to involve more people in the town-wide reading of "Three Cups of Tea". It was agreed that I would get in touch with Emily Reardon at the Library to make sure that the budget was redone to not include consumables in the request from the BCC. Tabled.
10. Juliet reported on Richard Clark's "And Now Mark Twain" proposal for the Senior Center. Juliet had spoken with the Senior Center, and was enthusiastic about the possibility of this being open to high school students on an early release day. Item was tabled for later date when more information available.
11. The Discovery Museums "Belmont Free to Explore" weekend. Laura reported that this is a gift to Belmont for free admission, and membership discounts one weekend celebrating 25 years of the Discovery Museums. We agreed that this was of interest. Tabled.
12. John Root would like to do a presentation of local wildflowers at the Belmont Council on Aging. We agreed to table this for further discussion, as it is different from the usual requests from the Senior Center.
13. Delvena Theatre Company's "Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks"-an educational/entertainment extravaganza with audience participation in a mock trial. Eunice reported on this. Need confirmation from BPLibrary, which was listed as a partner. There was some mention of whether this would be appropriate for the library, but we agreed to table it pending further information.
14. Habitat and a Chenery Middle School 8th grade art teacher would like to partner for a day of wildlife sketching. Rebecca reported that Habitat plans to bring various critters and mammal skulls to Chenery in March for art classes. Last year, Habitat had worked with the Chenex after school program, but this time is requesting to work with the school itself. Tabled.
15. Wellington School and the Mass. Horticultural Society would like to bring a plant-mobile to Wellington for the 2nd graders-with other funding coming from the Wellington PTO fundraisers. Patty reported on this-- tabled.
16. Belmont Nite Artists-a group of 13 women who want an art show at the VFW. Rebecca reported that the group wants to do an afternoon of birdhouse painting for children, followed by an evening of art to show their work and raise money for the VFW. Confirmation needed from the VFW, as well as a breakdown of what they are requesting from us. Tabled.
17. Belmont Art Gallery requests funding for "Sunday Afternoon at the BGA"-to fund user-friendly hours at the art gallery. The money would fund five shows; allow an artist stipend for a workshop for each featured artist, and the custodial fee. Victoria reported on this one. Need to check on fees and other costs. Tabled.
18. Belmont World Film's proposed screening of "Beyond Belief" at the Studio Cinema in February. I reported that BFW wants to have the filmmaker speak at the screening of this film, chosen to tie in with "One Book, One Belmont", as well as a slide show by Paula Cronin, of sites in "Three Cups of Tea". Questions about political bent to the movie and the feasibility, since previous grants have not been fulfilled. I agreed to contact BWF, and the item was tabled.
19. Powers Music School story hour, with second performance at a Winn Brook, reported by Rebecca. Tabled with support.

20. Food on Film at BPLibrary. Victoria reported that Food on Film wants to purchase videos for showing. We wondered if the grant was just for purchases, or also for the presentations. We tabled this with questions.

21. Jennifer Farley Smith's "Listening to Beatrix". This one was Laura's, but as it was getting late and Patty said it needed a good bit of discussion, we agreed to not start on discussing it.

22. Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

--sarah freiberg ellison