

Belmont Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes Sept. 19, 2006

In attendance: Sarah Freiberg-Ellison; Susan Smart, Viva Fisher, Rebecca Richards, Juliet Jenkins, Patty Mihelich
Absent: Louise Ambler,

Everyone was welcomed back after the summer break. New member Sarah Freiberg-Ellison introduced herself and was welcomed by the rest of the BCC.

After introductions were made, Juliet asked for some clarification between the Belmont Cultural Council and the Belmont Gallery of Art. She wanted a clearer definition of the BCC's responsibilities with the gallery. In response, Viva described the BCC's relationship to the BGA. She told the council that the BGA was on target for raising money/covering expenses for each show. She then distributed the LCO Progress Report submitted to the Mass Cultural Council by the BGA and further described the process of working with nonprofit consultant Dorothy Chen-Courtin to help develop a strategic plan for the gallery. Viva then asked for a vote from the members asking for reimbursement of Dr. Chen-Courtin's travel expenses (\$40) to be taken out of the BCC's 5% administrative overhead interest-bearing account. The group voted in favor to pay.

Resource materials for the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) as well as applicant information for the BCC were then distributed. BCC members were encouraged to visit the MCC website for more information on the granting process. It was mentioned to Sarah that she should look into the Online Training Session offered by the MCC for Local Cultural Council members.

Specific mention was made of the requirement that an applicant looking for funding from the BCC must have a local partner before their application can be considered. This has been an ongoing problem with a handful of applicants in recent years. Applicants from outside Belmont, without a local partner in place, will not be considered for a grant.

The members then voted to once again not fund the PASS program. It was decided that even with an increase of \$1500 in our MCC state allotment we still have very limited funding and want to have funds used for school programs in town, not for transportation to outside events.

A discussion then took place on how to best get the word out to the community regarding the Oct. 16th BBC grant application deadline. It was suggested that it be mentioned on the local cable access Channel 8 as well as be posted on the official Town website and the Belmont Yahoo chatroom which is administered by former BCC member Oz Barron. Viva and Rebecca told the group that several flyers had been posted around town and that Rebecca had also submitted a story about BCC grant applications to the Belmont Citizen-Herald.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: The next meeting of the BCC is schedule for Thursday, Nov. 2nd. Additional meetings are set for Nov. 16th, Nov. 28th and Dec.12, as needed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Rebecca Richards
Co-Chair, BCC