

Belmont Cultural Council

September 27, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Location: Conference Room One, Town Hall

In attendance: Susan Smart, Viva Fisher, Rebecca Richards, Dietlinde Hamburger, Patty Mihelich, Carlha Vickers and guest Louise Ambler.

Absent: Oz Barron

Meeting was convened at 7:40pm. Introductions were made of new members (S. Smart) and visiting guest (L. Ambler).

There was a brief discussion of the need for new members to the Belmont Cultural Council, with a few names of potential members mentioned. Louise Ambler made clear her interest in being on the council and would be taking the steps necessary to be officially appointed by the Selectmen.

Viva then initiated a discussion of the BCC Survey and the community input she had received from the survey. She said she had distributed them while working at Town Day in May and so was able to get some immediate feedback from residents. She reminded everyone that the BCC must conduct the survey every three years as required by the Mass. Cultural Council. The majority of responses received from the survey indicated interest in BCC funding for schools and seniors.

There was a discussion about signage for the gallery. It was suggested that there be an easel in the gallery with a sign indicating the BCC's sponsorship of it. Right now most people do not realize that the BCC is the organization behind the gallery. It was agreed it's important residents be aware of that. Discussion then went on to address other issues of public relations/community outreach for the gallery. Susan offered to do some pr writing for the Belmont Citizen-Herald. Everyone agreed that was a great idea.

Carlha then gave everyone an update on what had been happening with Jane Sherwin and her "On the Farm Where You Live" project. She told the group Jane had applied for funding through the Mass. Foundation for the Humanities and was waiting to hear if she'd received a grant from the organization. Carlha asked the group what is the BCC's policy on funding something when it's a multi-year project. She said this was important since the scope of Jane's project is largely dependent on the funding she gets. Viva responded that the BCC has to be held accountable because we are distributing government funds. Viva then reminded the group that Jane was asked to do the library lectures as part of the public

benefit requirement within the term of the grant. She stressed that there needs to be a public benefit for each year of a multi-year grant.

Rebecca then brought up the idea of the BCC applying for an MCC Gold Star Award for the success of the gallery. She told the group she had chatted with Kristin Baker of the MCC at the gallery reception and that she was supportive of the idea, but did indicate that projects applying for Gold Star Awards must have received funding from the state in order to qualify for consideration. Baker made it clear that the funds would come out of the BCC's allotment. Everyone agreed to receive such an award would lend additional credibility to the gallery and likely garner more support among town officials. Everyone agreed that the BCC should apply for funding to be considered for the prestigious award. Rebecca said she would look into the specific criteria for applying and get back to everyone via e-mail.

Viva then gave an overview of the funding Grant Cycle; what's involved, the time frame, etc. She told members where applicants could go to get information/forms to apply for funding (library, Town Hall, MCC's website). She reminded members that the application deadline this year is Oct. 17th. She made it clear that it's crucial to have a quorum at the meetings where applications are reviewed, since members will be voting whether to fund a project or not.

A brief discussion of the gallery reception followed. Members discussed what worked and what didn't work and things to maybe change for next time.

Meeting over at 9:05.

Next meeting(s)-Nov. 3rd, (7:30pm); Nov. 15th and Dec. 1st.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Richards