

Belmont Cultural Council
September 27, 2012 minutes

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The meeting was called to order at 7:40

Present: Anne Quirk (chair), Jirair Hovsepian, Rebecca Richards, Ken Stalberg

Absent: Anne Levy, Ilyse Robbins Mohr, Christine Sandvik

The meeting began with a discussion of the need to recruit new members now that Sarah Ellison and Sara Bruya have departed. Anne Quirk and Ken Stahlberg proposed a few names and will follow through to see if any are interested in joining.

Ms. Quirk also reported on various recent publicity efforts to promote the BCC: the Meet Belmont event she attended with Christine Sandvik; an appearance on the cable access program "What's Going On;" a recent article in Belmont Citizen-Herald; postings on Belmont Patch and Belmont Common Place; personal letters to PTOs; and the placement of a small promotional signs (with handouts) at local libraries.

Treasurer Ken Stalberg reported that the BCC has been allocated \$3870 from the state for 2013 grants. Five percent (\$193.50) can be used for administrative expenses. The committee believes that \$100 should be sufficient, assuming that is the approximate cost of the post office box. All of other expenses – occasional xeroxing and postage – should be easily borne by individual council members. Ken Stalberg also reported that the council has approximately \$550 of unencumbered funds, interest and unused funds from earlier granting seasons, in its town account.

The results of community input survey were distributed and discussed. The brief survey had been posted on our website, Facebook page, sent to our recent grant recipients, and, in printed form, distributed at Meet Belmont and at a Belmont Art Gallery opening. The thirty-five respondents were generally pleased by the level of cultural activity in the town but believed that teens and low-income residents needed more programs and that Belmont should have more town-wide cultural events.

The committee then discussed the possibility of direct fund raising. Rebecca Richards proposed -- and the group enthusiastically endorsed -- the idea of staging a BCC musical event, which would feature Ken Stalberg and other local musicians, at an upcoming Belmont World Film (BWF) screening. Revenues could be shared in some way to be determined. Ms. Richards will now pursue this idea with the BWF board. Mr. Stalberg also volunteered to ask Belmont Savings Bank for a contribution.

October 18th and November 15th were tentatively set for the dates of the next meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by Anne Quirk, Chair