

Belmont Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

(Approved Feb 3, 2021)

January 5, 2021, 6:30 to 8:15

Meeting Via Zoom

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BELMONT, MA

DATE: February 11, 2021

TIME: 9:02 AM

Attending: Nancy Linde (Chair), Evelyn Corsini, Volkan Efe, Annette Goodro, Haixi Liu, Millie Rahn, Rebecca Richards Juliet Jenkins, May Ye, Vicki Amalfitano

Not Attending: Jenny Angel

1. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting minutes were only forwarded earlier in the day. Since some members had not had the opportunity to review, approval was postponed to the February meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report

Annette Goodro requested the status of grants that did not go forward due to COVID-19:

- Greek Dinner and Mae West Performance (Nancy Linde, liaison)
- Philharmonic Society of Arlington at Payson Park (Jenny Angel, liaison)
- Belmont Porch Fest (Annette Goodro, liaison)

There was a discussion of whether the Council should request the return of any unexpended funds to bolster the total allocation for 2021 grant applications. It was decided that the liaisons would reach out to their grantees to better understand their individual situations and report back at the February meeting.

Annette reiterated information from the September meeting on the BCC account - we abandoned the Council Originated Grant Proposal due to the pandemic and returned the \$1000 grant back into funds to be distributed. In addition to this decision made at the September meeting, we needed to make a decision on whether or not to continue with the BCC Website (annual expenses are \$20 for the domain name, and \$153 for digital platform fees).

3. BCC Website Update

Juliet Jenkins provided an overview of the Council's web presence. The \$153 in annual expenses supports a Council initiated and maintained site at <https://www.belmontculturalcouncil.org/> which was developed by former BCC member Nien and Belmont High School interns. Juliet updated the site this past

summer with the help of new interns. There was a discussion of the merits of this site in addition to the BCC presence on the town site <https://www.belmont-ma.gov/cultural-council> and our presence on the Massachusetts Cultural Council site <https://www.mass-culture.org/belmont> and the role of these websites relative to the BCC's Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/BelmontCulturalCouncil/>

The upshot of the discussion was that the Council benefits from digital platforms, especially with the limitations of the pandemic. Nancy motioned to continue the website for the coming year, Rebecca seconded and the decision was unanimous.

Haixi will work with Juliet on a design and content review of the site and some go-forward plans for Council review.

4. BCC 2021 Grant Allocation Update

Nancy has not received this information and thinks we will have our allocation mid-January.

5. Review of 2021 Applications

The Council received 21 applications for grants in the 2021 cycle. (Note that Rebecca Richards left the meeting room while the Belmont Gallery of Art grant application was discussed.) The Council has not yet received its allocation, so it proceeded to begin evaluation of the applications in terms of their adherence the stated MCC and BCC guidelines as posted on the MCC website, with a special emphasis on involvement of and/or endorsement of Belmont residents, artists and organizations, and overall public benefit to the Belmont community of the proposed program.

Council liaisons were asked to follow up with some applicants in advance of the February meeting to fill in any needed information from this meeting's discussion, and get a better understanding of the project's budget, especially plans should the Council not be able to fund the entire requested amount.

6. Adjournment

Having completed all business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted
Vicki Amalfitano