

BELMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

03/13/2019, Belmont Town Hall, Room 2, Meeting started at 7:04 pm 2019 OCT 31 AM 8:56

ATTENDING: JULIET JENKINS (chair), SARAH FREIBERG ELLISON, (secretary), ANNETTE GOODRO (treasurer), JOHN BABOIAN, NANCY LINDE, NIEN LIU

ABSENT: JENNIFER ANGEL, GRACE PENG, SHONOO MALIK, ARLYN ROFFMAN REBECCA RICHARDS, MARSHA SEMUELS

MINUTES FROM JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS: Accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Voted to hold back the maximum of 5% of funds for expenses in 2020.

REVIEW OF FY 2019 GRANTS: Cultural council members need to remind our grantees that once their event has occurred to send in the Final Report, which will then go to Annette. Any questions, look at the guidelines, or ask Annette or Juliet. It's probably easiest to just send the whole packet again to the grantees, so they have a new copy of the Final Report. "Owl Woman" paperwork needs to be sent in.

PUBLICITY INITIATIVES: Nien, Jenny and Rebecca met to discuss the website. Nien has added some pages, and plans to list all the current grants in order of when they will occur. Jenny is gathering bios of committee members. Photographer Dawn Wessman came to take a picture of the Cultural Council for use in the new website. If any members of the BCC have high resolution pictures of previous grantee performances, please send them to Nien. We voted to let Nien publish the website between now and June 30. Tentatively, the website will be: Belmontculturalcouncil.com. Nien will reach out to get our feedback once it has gone live. Our email, as shown on the Belmont town website is: Info@belmontculturalcouncil.org. We all agreed that Nien has done a great job, and the website looks fantastic.

Spring awards announcement planned tentatively for the first Friday in March 2020 at the BGA. After some discussion of what the budget might be, we tabled discussion until September.

Annette asked if we wanted to fundraise for the BCC. The MCC encourages it, but there are a lot of guidelines, and there seem to be a lot of different hoops to jump through to make it possible. We would need a regular mail address—we could use the Town Administrator's office address. Donations can only be by check. There is a sample fundraising letter on the MCC website, which Nien could add to the new BCC website. One reason to fundraise is that now that we give the grant money out immediately, we are losing at least \$65.00 a year in accrued interest. The MCC suggests stating a specific goal for the fundraising. Annette will investigate the possibilities. If the procedures seem reasonable, we voted to fundraise—but if it's too difficult, Annette will let us know.

Other publicity initiatives are still being worked on.

VACANCIES: The BCC needs members to step up and be Secretary, Co-chair and Co-Treasurer. Also we need new members.

Next Monday, March 18th, at 9 pm, Juliet is meeting with the Selectman. Other BCC members are welcome to either attend or write some ideas to Juliet. Specifically, she will discuss the number of members present at meetings, how many should be on the committee, and what should be done about members who don't attend any meetings. She will discuss officially removing any member who has missed more than 3 meetings in a row. She discussed the problem of not having a quorum for meetings with an assistant to the Selectmen who put us on notice that according to town rules, by default, we should have the maximum number of members—22—and therefore need at least 11 to run a meeting. We only have 12 members at this point, and one hasn't been able to attend. We voted that we would like to officially have 7-11 members on the BCC. If we know of any possible new members, we should get them to send in a resume before this meeting on Monday. John sent out an email for members that was sent to him to current BCC members, and noted that we should ask former members if they would like to rejoin. Also, as Juliet said, we need members to step up and be treasurer and chair. All will be discussed with Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS: Community input needs to be annual now, but it can be as informal as conversations. Requests for community input can be put on the website.

Meet Belmont in August—Annette will attend to talk to PTO groups, but it would be helpful to have someone else as well.

The committee should be aware that we could set aside money for a council initiated grant. Think about it. We could use up to 15% of our allocation.

The town-wide event that we are planning to be a community sponsor of has been moved from this spring to the fall.

John will be stepping down from the committee in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Freiberg Ellison, secretary