

Belmont Cultural Council
Minutes of Meeting - February 22, 2023
Via Zoom

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BELMONT, MA

DATE: June 29, 2023
TIME: 9:10 AM

In Attendance: Vicki Amalfitano (Chair); Volkan Efe; Annette Goodro; Kathleen Hagen; Evelyn Corsini; Gloria Pimentel; Kate Creagh

Absent: Ye May, Millie Rahn

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Introduction of New Board Member

Vicki introduced the board's new council member, Kate Creagh. All members welcomed Kate to the board with brief introductions by all.

Minutes

Motion to accept amended December 14, 2022 minutes by Kathleen and seconded by Evelyn. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Status on the nesting project from the Belmont Gallery of Art was presented by Vicki. Rebecca from the Gallery of Art updated her on where the project stands. Because of Covid, some delays occurred in completing the project. However, the Gallery board would like to go forward with the grant as originally planned. After a brief discussion on the merits for grant extension, a motion was presented by Kathleen to extend the grant and seconded by Evelyn. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Annette stated that she submitted all the paperwork for the grants with the exception of the Payson Park Music Festival Association. She has not received anything from the association. Volkan has called and emailed the representative and will continue to attempt to get the process completed. Annette emphasized that the funding allocation of \$8,800 has not come from the Mass Cultural Council yet to deposit into the BCC account. As of this date, payments cannot be made to the grantees. Grantees should be made aware that until the money is received, distributions cannot be made.

Grant Update

Vicki stated that Millie Rahn informed her that she would be resigning from the council for personal reasons. Vicki thanked Millie for her years of service and all the work she has done on

various projects. All agreed that she will surely be missed and the council thanks her profusely for all of her work and commitment to the council and the community.

Other Business

Kathleen gave an update on her efforts to get new sites for the display of art in Belmont. She followed up with the manager of the Citizen's Bank who was quite receptive. However, things did not work out at the location. Kathleen has walked about the town and researched possible locations in the town. She will continue to see if she can come up with some creative ideas to get art displayed in the town and demonstrate community support. Members brainstormed on numerous possibilities and a few suggestions were given. Kathleen urged members likewise to reach out to potential supporters.

Vicki mentioned that she will be sending out the surveys in the next months. In addition, the Council will need to reaffirm its goals and priorities. Last year Vicki did an extensive write-up of Council's Annual report which can be viewed on the town's website. This year, the report just needs some minor updating. This is due by March 3rd. BCC press releases will be sent to Will Brownsberger's and Dave Roger's offices. Lots of paperwork and contact is required to stay current and to get the word out on the Council's endeavors. Members thanked Vicki for all the outstanding preparation and work she has done and is doing for the Council. Annette mentioned that anyone who might be interested in being a co-chair should let Vicki know.

Question posed on whether a decision has been made pertaining to the reinstatement of the Council in-persons meetings. Vicki mentioned that there is a talk of hybrid meetings being instituted perhaps by end of March or April. However final decision will be by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding mandated in-person meetings, hybrid meetings or zoom meetings in the coming months. The town will follow the decision by the Commonwealth.

Public Discussion -No public comment.

Next Council meeting will be held in July.

Motion to adjourn by Evelyn and seconded by Gloria. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.