

DATE: March 9, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM

Belmont Cultural Council
Minutes of February 3, 2021, 6:40 to 8:40
Meeting Via Zoom

Draft

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

* *non-voting members*

Not Attending: None absent

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from BCC meetings held 9/30/20 and 1/5/21 were accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Annette Goodro reported the monies available for grant awards this year:

Allocation 2021

Allotment from Mass Cultural Council		\$7,100.00
Unused council-Originated grant given back to grants		1000.00
Library grant not paid out and cancelled to give back to grants		100.00
holdback FY 2020 (5% of \$6,800)	340.00	
website expenses	(173.00)	
Balance of holdback of FY2020 and costs State money to add to grants		167.00
<i>Taken from earned interest on account to make an even number</i>	(\$3.00)	3.00
	Funds to Grant for FY 2021	\$8,370.00

Annette noted that we are not holding back 5% for administrative costs this year, since we have sufficient from accumulated interest to pay for administrative costs this year.

3. BCC Website Status

Juliet reminded the group that we previously decided to extend maintain the BCC website through January '22. She recommends that at our first fall meeting this year we have a discussion to decide about the continuance of the website and the associated fees of approx. \$173.00/yr (\$20.00 for the domain name and \$153.00 for digital platform fees).

Juliet recommended we make it more obvious to visitors to the site what our main activity is. After making some updates to the website to reflect our new membership and events, she will send the team to the website and ask for brief feedback.

4. Updates from Chair

Status of Grants from FY '20 (delayed due to COVID19):

- The Greek dinner and Mae West presentation at the Beech Street Center are still on hold until it is safe for crowds to gather.
- The grant awarded to the Payson Park Music Festival for summer '20 will move to '21 to fund a performance by the same band.
- Habitat reconfigured their program to be Covid-safe and will move forward.
- The Belmont/Arlington Chorale will be presenting a virtual concert via YouTube in lieu of the in-person program they had planned for last December.
- Porchfest was not held in 2020 (future plan TBD).

Grant Cycle Timeline Nancy reported there were no changes to the grant cycle schedule.

Protocol for Reconsideration Requests/Denials Nancy reminded the group about the MCC guidelines for how to handle these and in what timeframe.

5. Discussion of Specific Awards for FY '21

Note that Rebecca Richards left the meeting while we discussed the grant request from the Belmont Gallery of Art.

We discussed the grants under consideration in detail and the merits of each, in order to award a dollar amount to each, summing to the \$8,370.00 we have available to award. We voted unanimously on the following grant allocations to eight projects:

Belmont Gallery of Art: Bird-Themed Public Art Project	\$725.00
Belmont World Film: International Film Series	\$925.00
The Dorothy & Charles Mosesian Center:	
Virtual Free and Low-cost Visual and Performing Arts Programs for children residing primarily in Watertown, Belmont, and Waltham	\$450.00
The Benton Lending Library:	\$925.00
Powers Music School: Online Community Outreach	\$925.00
Habitat/Audubon (2 Grants):	
Sensory Friendly Days	\$700.00
Birding in Belmont	\$420.00
Belmont Art Association:	
<u>Beautifying Belmont's Transformer Boxes</u>	<u>\$3,300.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$8,370.00

Administrative Follow-up Tasks

6. Nancy reminded the group about what paperwork grantees must receive alongside their approval letters. She will email council members a revised Sample Letter to use (language updated to reflect latest MCC guidelines).
7. We voted unanimously to pay \$12/yr to have the BCC yahoo address automatically forward mail to the relevant recipient (currently Nancy). This is a new fee imposed by yahoo.
8. Nancy will reach out to town administrators to update BCC information on the Town's website.
9. The date for our next meeting was decided, 3/3/21 via Zoom, and this meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Angel