

SEP 11 2 40 PM '13

Belmont Cultural Council
December 3, 2012 minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:45

Present: Anne Quirk (chair), Jirair Hovsepian, Anne Levy, Ilyse Robbins Mohr,
Rebecca Richards, Christine Sandvik, Ken Stalberg

Guest: John Baboian, who is considering joining the BCC.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Stalberg reported that the BCC has \$4884 in funds available.
The committee voted unanimously that \$4200 be granted for 2013.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a proposal-by-proposal discussion of the 2013 grant applications and the allocation of funds. Discussion and funding is as below. All grant decisions and funding amounts were approved by unanimous vote of the committee.

#1 McNeaney Brass Band concert

Anne Quirk reminded the committee that project was denied during last meeting due to lack of local partner. **Denied**

#2 Odaiko Drumming concert

Ken Stalberg reported the Beech Street Center is very excited about this project, which will be about 45 minutes and held on a Tuesday afternoon in an attempt to draw more parents with children. **Approved: \$415**

#3 Bouchard Swing Orchestra

Anne Quirk reminded the committee that project was denied during last meeting due to its lack of local partner. **Denied**

#4 Wirt Blues Bros Band

Anne Quirk reminded the committee that project was denied during last meeting due to its lack of local partner. **Denied**

#5 Bates Story and music presentation

Anne Levy reported this well organized program for young children was enthusiastically supported by the library. **Approved: \$500**

#6 Audubon/Habitat Nature Comes Inside

Rebecca Richards reported this three part nature series will be held at the Beech Street Center and presented by Habitat, which means it is supported by two local institutions. The Beech Street Center is also very enthusiastic about the project. **Approved: \$350**

#7 Amdur Mural project

Rebecca Richards reported this is public art project, which would provide a history of cinema mural outside the Belmont Studio Cinema, is one of few visual arts proposals and would have wide public appeal and visibility. This project was well received by all the BCC members.

Approved: \$500

#8 Powers Faculty concerts

Ken Stalberg reminded the committee that he had enthusiastically supported these concerts at the last BCC meeting. **Approved: \$400**

#9 REES Diabetes Film

Anne Quirk reminded the committee that project was denied during last meeting due to its lack of local partner. **Denied.**

#10 Collins Monologues

Ilyse Mohr reported that this dramatic program was supported by the Beech Street Center, although not as strongly as other proposals intended for that venue. **Denied:** project did not provide as much public benefit compared to other proposals we received.

#11 Wood Concert

Jirair Hovsepien reported that Mr. Wood did not respond when asked about a local partner. **Denied:** lack of local partner

#12 Marble Collection Teen lit mag

Ken Stalberg reported that there is no budget for a creative writing program at Belmont High and there is no one there who would act as a local partner for this teen literary magazine. **Denied:** lack of local partner

#13 Wellington PTO Rainforest Talk

Anne Levy reported that this program for all five of the first grade classes at the Wellington School is a valuable supplement to the science curriculum. **Approved: \$400**

#14 Belmont Gallery Promotion of gallery

Jirair Hovsepien reported that he talked with the gallery administrator about the specific use of the funds for promotion and learned that the funds will be used to promote the spring 2013 programs. Christine reported that Belmont Gallery proposals have been funded in the past and that there is not an issue funding this proposal because of the connection between the gallery and the BCC (see note below concerning general Belmont Gallery discussion). **Approved: \$200**

#15 Women's Club W. Homer exhibit \

This project includes three town organizations, Belmont Women's Club, Belmont Historical Society and the Belmont Library. The funding will be used to purchase the dress reproductions for the exhibit in the library and for marketing and promotional expenses. **Approved: \$300**

#16 Dance Caliente Dance performance

Ilyse Mohr reported that the Beech Street Center is very enthusiastic, and so is she, about this dance proposal, an active program for seniors which is unlike the other programs which have been proposed for this audience. **Approved: \$500**

#17 Berney Charles River talk

Christine Sandvik reported this is a proposed multi-media talk at the Beech Street Center about wildlife along the Charles River was not as strong as the earlier nature projected proposed by Audubon/Habitat for the same venue. **Denied:** project did not provide as much public benefit compared to other proposals we received.

#18 Andrade Solar Car Mini-Doc

Christine Sanvik reported that she has received more information about this proposal but that these additions and changes do not help clarify the project. The changes include extending the completion of the film beyond the eligibility guidelines, and the funding is requested primarily for salary, although most of the work is being done on a volunteer basis. There was no targeted completion date. **Denied:** project did not provide as much public benefit compared to other proposals we received and may be completed outside of the eligibility guidelines.

#19 BHS Performing Arts Grease costumes

Anne Levy reported these costumes funds are intended for a large cast production of Grease at Belmont High. **Approved: \$400**

#20 Bel World Film Family film rentals

Jirair Hovsepien reported that proposal will help defray space rental costs at Studio Cinema for the showing of two films at for the family film festival. **Approved: \$235**

After the vote, Anne Quirk stressed that all denial letters need to be sent out as soon as possible in order to allow time for requests for reconsideration. She will soon send out information and sample letters to everyone.

Note: There was a lively side discussion about the relationship between the BCC and The Belmont Gallery of Art (BGA). Several committee members expressed confusion about the relationship between the two organizations and asked whether it was now appropriate for the BGA to become independent from the BCC. There was a discussion of asking the BGA to prepare an annual report for BCC about its activities and budget. The whole discussion was tabled in order to finish reviewing the proposals.

Looking forward to next year, Christine Sandvik suggested that the BCC invite each grant applicant to attend a BCC meeting and present their proposal in person. Attendance would be optional and those in attendance would not be given preference for funding.

The committee also talked briefly about a joint fund raising possibility with Belmont World Film. There was interest among board members but no next steps were discussed.

Ken Stalberg reported that we missed the funding cycle from the Belmont Savings Bank Foundation for this year but should keep it in mind for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Minutes submitted by Christine Sandvik, Secretary