

Belmont Cultural Council Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2003 Meeting
Chenery Middle School

In Attendance: Nan Rogers, Neely McNulty, Rebecca Richards, Jennifer Smith, Phil Hughes, Carlha Vickers, Patty Mihelich, Trey Klein, and Harriet Barnett

Missing: Viva Fisher

1) **Introductions:** Three potential new BCC members joined us for the meeting. We also discussed that the following members will be stepping off the council this summer: Harriet, Phil, and Neely. After general introductions and handouts, council member Patty moved to accept the minutes of 05/01/03 with one change. Harriet seconded that motion. Minutes of 05/01/03 were unanimously accepted.

2) **Outstanding Grants:** From FY'02 there are still programs which have not yet occurred. Rebecca will follow up with one of them, John Sarrouf, to encourage him to follow through with his proposed program.

3) **Treasurer's Update:** Phil has written a letter to the Town Treasurer asking what the council's FY'03 interest is and requesting transfer of those funds from the interest bearing Fleet account to the town account.

4) **Guidelines updates:** for the next fiscal year, if we want to revise the council guidelines at all, the council needs to start on that next month. Does the gallery opening in September 2004 (at the earliest) affect what the BCC would fund in the next grant cycle? For example, might the BCC fund some framing expenses incurred by a visual artist who was going to show in the gallery? Jennifer suggested that potentially the BCC funding could balance the visual artists support of the gallery program. Group will discuss this more fully at the next meeting.

4) **Belmont World Film update:** In a thorough and informed update, Rebecca informed the council that on the night of the documentary screening in this year's Belmont World Film series, an announcement was made to the audience that all proceeds of that film were going to be given to Amnesty International. Amnesty International, the co-sponsor of the film, had paid for that screening in its entirety. Though Amnesty International had been identified as a co sponsor, the screening itself had not been identified as a fundraising event for Amnesty International. Legally and ethically, there are questions raised about taking money from the audience before identifying where their donations were going. Rebecca has made it clear that none of the BCC funds given to BWF were given to Amnesty International. BWF will continue to look at this issue and will decide shortly whether they will partner with an outside groups in the future.

During this discussion, Nan also mentioned the Non Dependency Clause in the guidelines for ongoing projects like the BWF. Rebecca informed us that BWF is going to focus on corporate sponsors for future series.

5) **CCAB:** Rebecca and Trey have officially formed a group with other town members called the **Citizens Coalition for the Arts in Belmont**. The group will be meeting soon to identify specific goals and its mission. In general, the group seeks to promote the arts in Belmont and make public cultural events more broadly accessible to all Belmont residents.