

Cultural Council
Minutes
August 31, 2021

Members in Attendance: Joseph Bisbee, Jr., Daniel Callahan, Mary Pap, Marie Stoeckel, and Hong Vuong

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Joe made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes. Dan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

The council discussed the recent changes made by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) for Local Cultural Councils (LCCs), pertaining to a new grants management system that is being implemented for the FY22 cycle. There was a series of webinars over the summer to introduce the new system and updated website to members of LCCs. Joe asked all the members if they were able to familiarize themselves with the new state MCC website and login procedures.

Joe mentioned that the MCC FY22 Cycle will return to its original, pre-pandemic timeline. September 1, 2021 is when the FY22 Grant cycle opens thru October 15, 2021 when applications will be due to LCCs. In November and December, LCCs will receive the grant applications and conduct voting meetings. Annual reports will be submitted by January 18, 2021.

Council Priorities are due by September 1, 2021 and were reviewed by the council. No changes needed to be made to our council's priorities and guidelines, so they were submitted.

The members reviewed the new LCC website and Joe logged in to make sure each member's information was updated. He requested each member ensure they know how to log in to the new system and update their information especially the dates of their term on the Weymouth Cultural Council.

Dan led a discussion about laying out standard procedure guidelines for council roles. Joe and Dan thought it would be helpful for future council members to have WCC procedures written out as well as specific duties listed for each role on the council: chairperson, treasurer, and secretary. Since members come and go when terms expire or for personal reasons, new members are always joining the council. It would be helpful for future WCC members to have a reference and procedure guide detailing what and how things are done during the grant cycle and the responsibilities of each role on the council and how those duties are executed. The members thought it was a good idea and Dan was going to continue working on it and requested Mary input the information for the WCC Secretary position.

The need for new members was discussed. WCC member, James Nieland resigned from the council, leaving two spots that should be filled. The Mayor's office is reviewing applications and will hopefully appoint new members soon.

Joe brought up a request from the Weymouth Public Libraries to modify one of the grants they received for their programming. The request entailed the library's proposal to adjust the funds allocated to Grant #30453 from \$3,000 to \$1,215, which would free up \$1,785 to cover the cost of a program put on by the Delvena Theatre Company to help celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the new Tufts Library. The council took up the grant modification request and after discussing the changes, Joe made a motion to approve the request. Marie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The council discussed the COVID related extensions that were given to 2020 grants and what the expiration dates would be on the extension. Some grantees have still to claim funds for approved grants that were given extensions. Questions arose on whether unused funds would get rolled over to the next grant cycle. The council would seek guidance from the MCC on the 2020 modifications and extensions.

Dan shared a couple items that were sent to the Town Hall and shared with the WCC. One item was from Linda D'Angelo of the Back River Watershed Association, which was a book about the Ecology of the Weymouth Back River. Another item mailed to the WCC was a video from the Arc of the South Shore highlighting their programming. The Arc has been a recipient of Cultural Council grants.

Marie requested WCC meetings which are typically on Tuesdays be moved to Wednesdays, which was fine with the council members.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03p.m. Hong seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cultural Council is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7p.m. to be held via Zoom.

Approved by: Joseph Biabee

Mary A. Pap

Dated: 09/23/2021 type text here

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