

Amherst Cultural Council
Minutes of Meeting of April 17, 2018

Amherst Room, Jones Library

Present: Sondra Radosh, Andrea Battle, Jenny Lind, Robin Thompson, Gigi Barnhill, Cyndi Harbeson

Absent: Martha Toro, Gina Chaplain

Guests: Ashley Robertson (UMass), Ben Martz (Hampshire College), Flavia Matinez and Stuart Robbins (Amherst College).

Agenda:

Review of past minutes

Report on MCC Institute

Membership

Use of Administrative Funds

New Business

The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. The students introduced themselves. They were interested in civic organizations, communications, and political activism.

1) Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2) MCC Institute: Gigi and Robin described the Massachusetts Cultural Council Institute held in Worcester on March 17. The attendance exceeded the expectations of the MCC organizers and the event went very smoothly. There were both plenary sessions and workshops. One that was important to the situation in Amherst focused on obtaining financial support from the Town government for cultural development. Amherst could look both to Worcester whose cultural development officer, Erin Williams, lives in New Salem, or to Easthampton. In general the theme was advocacy for the arts, certainly a concern of the Amherst Center Cultural District shared by the ACC. Various musical groups performed leading the assemblage of several hundred people in a long conga line.

3) Face Book page: Robin Cherof, a volunteer interested in cultural affairs, crafted a Face Book page for the ACC. It is up and running. Unfortunately, Robin has moved out of the area.

4) Members of Council: Andrea, Sondra, and Gigi expressed an interest in second three-year terms on the Council. The name of Jane Groneau was raised as a possible member.

5) Finances: There is about \$9,000 in a town account for the ACC. This is the result of accumulated interest and donations. Holly Howser subsequently confirmed that this money is used for administrative purposes (photocopying the panel book, reimbursing Andrea for paper and printing ink, etc.). It must be used for the same purposes as the MCC funds, including grants.

6) New Business: Given the disaster of a several hundred-page attachment to one of the applications, the ACC voted to limit supplemental information to ten pages. Gigi will add this guideline to the MCC website.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Barnhill