

Meeting Minutes  
Amherst Cultural Council  
June 25, 2020  
Via Zoom 4:40 pm – 5:26 pm

Members present included Georgia Barnhill, Cyndi Harbeson, Cole Graber-Mitchell, Andrea Battle, Robin Thompson, Julianne Applegate, Jenny Lind, Sondra Radosh, Arthur Pero, and Hank Allan.

Meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm:

1. By roll call vote the council voted to approve the May 28, 2020 minutes.
2. New Member discussion: The Council needs one more member and decided to move ahead with asking a high school rising sophomore to apply since the town confirmed that it would be ok to do so. We discussed making a HS student a non-voting ex-officio member but decided to stick with trying to find a student. Julianne will ask the Amherst Regional art teacher for their recommendations. We decided to address diversity concerns through changing application guideline to encourage applications from artists and/or programs that celebrate diversity and inclusion.
3. PechaKucha: As a council we decided to postpone discussion on how to proceed with PechaKucha until we have a better idea when we could proceed with a live event instead of a virtual event.
4. Facebook and Instagram: The council's social media presence online is on hold until the appropriate form has been completed and submitted to the town. Cyndi and Gigi will work together to complete the form. The Google drive is also on hold.
5. Applicant Guideline discussion: The council discussed at length adding language to the guidelines that would act to encourage artists and programs that address inclusivity and diversity to apply. We worked on language that would be appropriate but struggled to find the right words. Gigi and Jenny will take a look at guidelines from other towns to see if they can find language that would be appropriate. We discussed taking an active role in asking arts organizations to produce programs that would address racism and diversity to apply for funding (with no promise that we can guarantee funding). Andrea will reach out to the HS Black Lives Matter group and Jenny will reach out to Terry Jenoure at Augusta Savage Gallery. Other possible changes to guidelines included asking applicants to specifically identify who in their organization will receive a stipend and to provide thoughtful and specific descriptions of their project that includes dates and venues. We decided to take the work "sole" out of the student guideline. We have more time to work on updating guidelines and will focus our next meeting of reviewing them again.
6. No new business but Gigi reported that she has been in contact with a number of grant recipients and is keeping an Excel list of date changes and other info pertaining to changes in grants due to COVID 19.
7. Next meeting Wednesday, June 22 at 4:30 pm via Zoom.
8. Adjourned 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Lind, Secretary, Amherst Cultural Council