

Meeting Minutes  
Amherst Cultural Council  
May 28, 2020  
Via Zoom 3:00 – 4:15 pm

Members present: Georgia Barnhill, Cyndi Harbeson, Rachel Wang, Cole Graber-Mitchell, Andrea Battle, Robin Thompson, Julianne Applegate, Jenny Lind, Hank from the Jones Library, Mina Kim

Meeting was called to order:

1. Gigi introduced Mina Kim, Program Officer from the Massachusetts Cultural Council who works with LCC from three counties in MA including Hampshire County. She reported that the MCC budget is still unknown and asked that members contact their legislators and tell them how COVID 19 has affected the arts in our community. Please let the MCC know of creative projects artists are making in response of the COVID 19 pandemic and to please contact her if anyone should have questions. She thanked the council for their work.
2. By roll call vote the council voted to approve the Feb 11 and March 3, 2020 minutes
3. By roll call vote the council appointed Jenny Lind as council Secretary, Robin Thompson as council Treasurer (Andrea will train Robin), and Andrea Battle as ex officio member.
4. We discussed the possibility of appointing a high school student as a member of the council. As a council we agreed that a “Youth Member” would lend an important perspective on funding grant requests that serve youth. The member will need to be a sophomore in order to fulfill the 3-year requirement, should be an Amherst resident that attends Amherst Regional HS and could use their council service to fulfill any community service requirements for graduation. Gigi will check to see if there’s a minimum age requirement to serve on a town board. Julianne will check with HS arts teachers to help identify the appropriate candidate. The candidate will follow the regular membership approval process.
5. We discussed current grants and modifications impacted by the COVID 19 crisis. Very little mail has come in since the state shutdown but Gigi has received a number of requests to postpone events dates and changes to online programming. Only six events from this grant cycle have taken place and have been reimbursed. As a council and with Mina assistance the council by roll call vote agreed to:
  - a. Extend the window to complete project/performance to December 31, 2021
  - b. Allows programs to be modified to be presented online or in a virtual format
  - c. Funds may be used to support operational costs
  - d. Funds may be used to support any program modifications that support the mission of the MCC to fund the arts and humanities
  - e. Funds may be used to prepay grantees.
  - f. Funds may be used to mitigate grantees financial circumstanceGrantees should still submit a request for program modification form

There was a discussion in regard to updating our council priorities for the next cycle due to the COVID 19 crisis, survey applicant's needs, create community engagement and support artists responding to COVID.

6. As a council we decided to postpone discussion on how to proceed with PechaKucha until another time and take advantage of the extended 12/31/21 deadline.
7. 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. Cole Graber-Mitchell volunteered to be the council's social media coordinator.
8. Next meeting June 25 at 4:30 pm via Zoom.
9. No new anticipated business
10. Adjourned 4:15 pm.

Jenny Lind, Secretary Amherst Cultural Council