

Amherst Cultural Council

Minutes of the Meeting of August 15, 2016

Call to order: Ellen Kosmer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Crafts Room of the Jones Library.

Council members in attendance: Ellen Kosmer and Honoré David, co-chairs; Andrea Battle, treasurer; Georgia Barnhill, secretary; Carl Erikson, Jennifer Lind, Sondra Radosh. Lynda Faye, Martha Toro, and Mia Cabana were not able to attend.

Agenda:

1. Introduction of Members
2. Review and Vote on Guidelines
3. Report on MCC Workshop
4. Setting September Community Information Meeting Date
5. Discussion of Local Council Initiated Grants
6. New Business and Other Matters Not Previously Anticipated

1 Introductions

Since this was the first meeting for Carl Erikson and Jennifer Lind, each member said a few words about themselves and their interests in the visual and performing arts.

2 Review and Vote on Guidelines

Ellen led the discussion about new local guidelines. These were discussed at the previous meeting. The ACC needed to approve them. The major change is that new programming/projects will be given preference. Also, repeat applications from individuals or organizations will be considered for three consecutive years. Said applicants may reapply after a hiatus of one year. The ACC hopes that this will result in more varied programming. Carl Erikson moved and Andrea Battle seconded that the new guidelines be adopted. The motion passed unanimously. Ellen Kosmer will forward them to the MCC by the September 1 deadline.

3 Report on MCC Workshop

Andrea Battle and Gigi Barnhill reported on the meeting convened by the Massachusetts Cultural Council staff for local cultural council members held in Northampton on August 2. At the meeting, MCC staff discussed the new application process that will enable the MCC to assemble applications for each local cultural council electronically. This year's deadline is October 17. On November 1, the MCC will deliver the applications in a PDF file to the ACC. There was a fair amount of anxiety about the ability of applicants to deal with this new process. MCC has notified previous applicants via email about the changes to the application process. The changes make the community information meeting more important than some years.

4 Community Information Meeting Date

We set Tuesday, September 13, as the Community Information Meeting. The meeting will be in the Amherst Room of the Jones Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Honoré David will write a news release to be distributed to the Amherst Bulletin. Andrea will help publicize the meeting as well. The meeting will be posted on the Town website. Ellen Kosmer will try to get a distribution list for prior applicants from the MCC.

5 Local Council Initiated Grants

At the conclusion of last year's grant cycle, the ACC observed that the town's visual artists were under-represented in the list of grantees. Ellen, Honoré, and Gigi met twice during the summer with Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge, Eric Broudy, and Amy Crawley to discuss initiatives that the ACC could undertake through a Council Initiated Grant, the guidelines for which are currently being revised.

Among the ideas that were discussed was a database of cultural events for the community (Jennifer noted the existence of a master calendar at UMass), database of artists (ArtsWorcester has one online with images), outdoor sculpture exhibitions (particularly important on the corridor from UMass to Kendrick Park), projects with middle or high school students and professional artists, light shows, thematic exhibitions relating to Amherst. Several people recalled a school project with Wildwood that resulted in the creation of a paper machée dragon that still is used in Chinese New Year celebrations at the school. A list of council initiated projects has been circulated and council members are encouraged to send ideas to Ellen and Honoré. Further discussion of these initiatives will be discussed at the Community Information Meeting.

6 New Business

Under new business, Ellen reviewed the decision-making process for the benefit of new members.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Barnhill, Secretary