

Amherst Cultural Council
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021
Via Zoom 5:30 pm – 6:52

Council members attended: Georgia Barnhill, Robin Thompson, Rachel Wang, Jenny Lind, Arthur Pero, Cole Graber-Mitchell, Matt Holloway, Sondra Radosh, Leah Neuburger; Nandi Chivende, and Town Liaison, Cyndi Harbeson

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm:

1. Minutes from the March 25 meeting were approved by roll-call vote.
2. Ko Festival plans to present virtual programming this year. The change was approved by roll-call vote. Gigi will notify Ko of the committee's approval.
3. Blanket approval discussion: Gigi explained last year's need to approve changes to grantees' programming due to COVID 19. The MCC allowed blanket change approvals to make it easier for Local Councils to help grantees change to virtual programming.
4. Accessibility Report: Robin reported that she will need a W-9 form and the MCC reimbursement form in order to pay accessibility contractors. Robin met with Ann Tweedy about the June 27th Amherst Center Cultural District event and reported that several grantees will be performing there: Amherst Ballet; Musical, The Musical; and the Bad News Jazz Orchestra. Robin will confirm if these performances are intended to be their ACC funded projects or not. Program change approval needs to be made by the ACC if so. Ann Tweedy needs volunteers for the event on Sunday, June 27. Please reach out to help find volunteers and Robin will ask Ann who to contact to volunteer.
5. Officer discussion: Gigi and Sondra will finish their terms in June and Cole offered to sign up for another three-year term. We will need to appoint two new members this summer. Both Jenny (Secretary) and Robin (Treasurer) offered to remain in their positions if approved by the council. Matt stepped up and offered to become the Chair. Thank you, Matt!!! Gigi will ask Julianne if she is interested in becoming an officer since she wasn't at the meeting. Final decisions will be voted on at the next meeting.
6. ACC Showcase discussion: The outreach committee will take on the project to present a grantee showcase. Specifically, Cole and Leah will gather and edit the video production. Leah will contact Amherst Media for assistance and to broadcast the finished video.
7. Leah reported on her testimonial to the Town Council to save arts and accessibility programming in the schools. We discussed how the council should respond to such cuts and the need to publicly make a statement to support the arts. Should we respond as the ACC or individually as Amherst residents? We decided that we will respond individually.
8. Next meeting is Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Jenny Lind, Secretary, Amherst Cultural Council