

Amherst Cultural Council  
**Approved Minutes**  
Wednesday, November 30, 2011  
Amherst Senior Center (Bangs), Room 101

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Sandra Mullin, presiding in the absence of Ann Woodbridge.

Present: Sandra Mullin, Ruth Rootberg, (Secretary, Co-Treasurer), Honoré David, Arnold Friedmann, Ellen Kosmer, Joan Temkin, and Gretchen Fox.

Absent: Ann Woodbridge (Chair), Laurie Nisonoff, and Sondra Radosh, liaison.

Minutes: November 8, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

Timing of Field Trips

There was some discussion regarding schools that have already taken field trips for which they are requesting funding. Submissions for reimbursement will not take place until after January, 2012, when grant award letters have been sent.

Granting for transportation

Ruth summarized correspondence between Jennifer Lawless and her (e-mail was forwarded to the Council members) regarding reimbursing for transportation. There is nothing that stipulates we cannot pay for transportation. Further, we should consider a percentage of the whole we want to fund a **project, rather than subtracting for particular line items of a budget. If in the future we don't want to pay** for transportation, we may add that to our local guidelines. See notes at the end of the minutes.

Information clarification and Tabled applications

FY2012-48 Picturebook Theatre. Arnold reported Therèse Donahue is applying for the larger amount, \$1360, not \$500. There was a mistake in some copies of our applications.

We then discussed the application.

Honoré noted she gives to Picturebook Theatre, and donations are not listed in her budget. Why?

**Approve: \$650, revisiting depending on overall budget, would like to give more if possible.**

Field Trip applications:

There were several times during the meeting that we spoke of the need for more information about field trips. See notes at end of minutes.

FY2012-1 Crocker Farm Field Trip requests \$1,000 to go to Picture Book Theatre in 2012, for grade 1. Cost includes the ticket plus a book. We understand that books are free with entrance to the public; why would we need to fund for the book? We also remembered that, although the application was not revised, it is our understanding they do not require the \$500 for transportation.

**Approve: \$500 and revisit.**

Before discussing the next 9 field trip grants, 4 from Wildwood and 5 from Fort River, the Council members discussed the importance of equity for public school projects. We **don't have sufficient** information from the applications to assess whether one is more worthy than another. For instance, **we liked the project #8 where Fort River's 4<sup>th</sup> grade** would go to Historic Deerfield, but the knowledge we had of how the trip would be tied into the curriculum comes from personal information, and not the grant applications. See notes at end of minutes for amending local guidelines in the future.

We explored decreasing the award by \$1 per ticket per child, or decreasing by a flat 20%, and then rounding up to the nearest \$5 or \$10. We determined to decrease each project by 20%, as follows:

FY2012-2 Wildwood School requests \$385 for the Kindergarten to attend a concert at UMass Fine Arts Center.  
Approve \$310.

FY2012-3 Wildwood School requests \$1,008 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades to attend a concert at UMass Fine Arts Center.  
Approve: \$810.

FY2012-4 Wildwood School requests \$1,372 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades to attend a concert at UMass Fine Arts Center.  
Approve \$1,100.

FY2012-5 Wildwood School requests \$406 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade to attend a concert at UMass Fine Arts Center.  
Approve \$325.

We will need to put in the acceptance letter that we will need to see a receipt for exactly the number of students who attended, and the price paid per ticket. The intention of the funding is to give 80% of what is needed, not what was estimated.

The Council turned to discuss Fort River's applications. It is more complicated because we still don't have exact information as to how many children are in each grade, and whether, where a grade is duplicated from one application to another (#7 & #9 both serve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; #8 & 10 both serve 4<sup>th</sup> grade), the intention is for each child to go to only one event, or more. Sandra will speak with the secretary tomorrow and report back at tomorrow's meeting. In the meantime, tentative grants were made based on the 20% decrease we used for Wildwood School, as follows:

FY2012-6 Fort River requests \$527 for Kindergarten to attend Theatreworks.  
Approve \$425. Revisit when more information is available.

FY2012-7 Fort River requests \$560 for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to attend Springfield Museums.  
Approve \$450. Revisit when more information is available.

FY2012-8 Fort River requests \$318 for 4<sup>th</sup> grade to attend Historic Deerfield.  
Approve \$255. Revisit when more information is available.

FY2012-9 Fort River requests \$490 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades to attend a performance at Bowker auditorium.  
Approve \$395. Revisit when more information is available.

FY2012-10 Fort River requests \$896 for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades to attend a performance at UMass Fine Arts Center.  
Approve \$720. Revisit when more information is available.

#### Re-visiting earlier decisions

The Council discussed a number of grants where we hoped to give more, if funding were available. There were several applications where some members advocated to increase the award, but ultimately we let the earlier decisions stand, as follows:

FY2012-13 Amherst (LSSE) Community Theatre - NO change.

FY2012-14 Amherst Ballet - NO change.

FY2012-15 Public Arts commission - NO change.

FY2012-16 Survival Center - NO change.

FY2012-18 Arena Civic Theatre - NO change.  
FY2012-19 Jean Carlos Carpio - NO change.  
FY2012-24 Fanfare Brass Choir - NO change.  
FY2012-27 Gallery 3 - NO change  
FY2012-28 Hampshire Choral Society - NO change.  
FY2012-40 Mohawk Trails Concerts, Inc. - NO change.  
FY2012-45 Old Deerfield Productions - NO change.  
FY2012-46 Peregrine, AWA Press - NO change.

We decreased one award by \$200:

FY2012-26 Aimee Gelinis  
Award DECREASED to \$500.

**Tabled until December 1:**

FY2012 41 Multi-Arts. The group was divided on whether to increase the award. Joan will get more information on who children are that are served, etc. **Joan will not attend tomorrow's meeting and will e-mail Sandra with any information she gathers.**

At the end of the meeting, Ruth noted we would need to draw \$2,298 to fulfill the awards as they stand presently. We assume we will be giving slightly less to Fort River, but still have Multi-Arts to re-consider (as well as **Picturebook Theater and Crocker Farm's field trip**). The Council Members seemed willing to withdraw that amount from the interest-bearing account; we were not willing to withdraw more, i.e., at a similar level to last year (approximately \$5,000).

Before adjourning, the change of place for the next meeting was announced: Jones library, Craft Room (December 1, 6:30pm).

As we are almost finished with our voting, but have many issues we want to discuss regarding amending our local guidelines, we considered we might do that at one of the scheduled December meetings (December 7 or 14), or at the January meeting when we make final approvals. It is not necessary to wait until spring, because we do not need to invite input from the public. The topics are fresh and might be more readily discussed sooner than later.

Notes:

Consider to amend local guidelines for FY2013 applications.

Field trips. We will require more information from schools regarding what the field trip is, how it relates to curriculum, and what kind of preparation and follow-up will be conducted.

We will fund at maximum for each child of a certain grade to attend only one field trip, whether we fund at 100% or less. In order to expedite our wishes, we would like a listing of the numbers of students in each grade to accompany the applications from any school.

We do not want to foster a spirit of entitlement for field trips. We may want to consider requiring field trips to take place after the date of an award (January of the award year), or, if the grant is to be retroactive, to know how the trip was funded before the Council could reimburse.

We may want to exclude transportation costs from field trips or any grants.

We may want to undertake a philosophical discussion: where do we want to encourage; what are our priorities. How can we narrow guidelines over the state. Do we want to support children more than seniors, established groups over new, etc.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg, Secretary