

Amherst Cultural Council
Approved Minutes
Thursday, December 1, 2011
Jones Library, Crafts Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Ann Woodbridge, Chair.

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

Absent: Laurie Nisonoff, Joan Temkin, and Sondra Radosh, liaison.

Agenda: An agenda was distribute.

Minutes: November 30, 2011 minutes were approved as CORRECTED (spelling of Sondra Radosh).

Field Trip requests from Fort River School Sandra distributed a sheet giving us some more information regarding the individual field trips and numbers of students who will attend. We inferred from the new information and the original applications that the 3rd grade was not to take two different trips (only #7 to the Springfield Museum, but that the 4th grade would (#8 to Deerfield and #10 to hear Korean Music). The Council continued by discussing how to proceed; were we splitting hairs to calculate the ticket prices based on new information, or should we stay with the amounts we had determined at the previous meeting, November 30. We did calculate and compare, and decided on the formula of giving 80% of the price of tickets for the exact number of students we understood would attend (plus, in some cases, chaperones), **based on Sandra's new information. For Field Trip # 10, we subtracted the number of 4th grade students (53) from the total (116) to calculate for just the 5th grade, which we assume is 63 students.**

Voting on Field Trips:

We still assume that each school will present a receipt for the cost of tickets, and we will reimburse only up to the amount of the receipt. The amounts approved are:

FY2012-6 Fort River requests \$527 for Kindergarten to attend Theatreworks.

Reconsidered and approve: \$385.

FY2012-7 Fort River requests \$560 for 3rd grade to attend Springfield Museums.

Reconsidered and approve: \$350.

FY2012-8 Fort River requests \$318 for 4th grade to attend Historic Deerfield.

Reconsidered and still approve: \$255.

FY2012-9 Fort River requests \$490 for 2nd and 3rd grades to attend a performance at Bowker auditorium.

Reconsidered, assume only 2nd grade is attending and approve: \$345.

FY2012-10 Fort River requests \$896 for the 4th and 5th grades to attend a performance at UMass Fine Arts Center.

Reconsidered and approve to pay for only 5th grade: \$355.

Reconsideration of other applications

The following application was reconsidered and the amount changed:

FY2012-26 Aimee Gelinis was discussed once more. We noted it is the only project that serves the middle school.

Re-approved at the original amount: \$700.

The following applications were reconsidered, but we let the earlier decisions stand, as follows:

FY2012-20 - Crocker Farm in schools was discussed. NO change.

FY2012-37 Amanda Hill. NO change.

FY2012-41 Multiarts. NO change.

FY2012-48 Picture Book Theatre. NO change.

The seven applications we had denied were reconsidered. We still feel firm in our decisions, and they stand as is. The applications and reasons for denial, for the convenience of the Council, are repeated as follows:

FY2012-36 Gregory Maichack - **Georgia O’Keeffe was taken up again.**

Deny: Your project did not provide enough public benefit for our community compared to other proposals we received.

FY2012-38 The Marble Collection requests \$150.

Deny: # 9 “Priority is given to Amherst artists/cultural groups.

FY2012-39 Mentors4Me requests \$900 for ARHS Alumni mentoring program.

Deny: Your project is not clearly related to the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.

FY2012-44 Northampton Screen Writers requests \$500 for Stage to Screen.

Deny: #11 from local Program Guidelines: Priority is given to projects that demonstrate strong planning.

FY2012-51 Plainfield Congregational Church requests \$300 for Concerts at 7.

Deny: Local Criteria #9. Priority is given to Amherst artists/cultural groups.

FY2012-56 Alejandra Rojas requests \$350 for Visual Testimony: Cultural enrichment of poor communities. This application received more discussion, but we did not change our decision.

Deny: Local Criteria 11. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate strong planning.

FY2012-60 The United Arc requests \$100 for Enjoying nature at Camp Keewanee on Leyden Road in Greenfield. The venue is one hour away; we doubt the audience will come from Amherst.

Deny: Local Criteria #9. Priority is given to Amherst artists/cultural groups.

Ann will send out denial letters next week. Each applicant has 15 days from the postmarked date of **Ann’s letter** to turn in an appeal to our mailbox at the Jones Library. If any appeal is made, the Council will need to reconvene to discuss the application again, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, for the first time, will be involved in the process. If we do decide to grant money, we can give a very small amount. Of note: no applicant can contest the amount we give; one can only contest a denial.

Voting to withdraw funds and approve budget

It was moved and seconded to **withdraw \$1,943** from the interest bearing account to accommodate the grant awards we wish to give. That means we have increased the original funding from \$19,307 (\$18,250 from the state this year + carry-over) to a total of \$21,250 giving for the year. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Balance sheet:

It was moved and seconded to approve the FY2012 balance sheet as laid out in the #5 November 30, 2011 version with five changes on five entries (also titled Voting Meeting #6 December 1, 2011). Passed unanimously.

Announcements and other business

Mailing letters of Acceptance

After the January 9 meeting, Ann, with assistance from some other Council members, will send out letters of acceptance.

Gretchen will be out of town December 20-April. We need someone to do reimbursements until she returns. Honoré has volunteered.

Ann will resign from her position as Chair in February, after the acceptance letters go out.

When Joan takes the online training we will be “streamlined.” When every Council member takes the training, streamlining allows money to become available very quickly to the recipients.

Next Meeting:

The one firm and other tentative meetings scheduled for December (December 7 & 14) have been canceled, as our voting business is finished for the time being. Ann announced the final meeting needs to be in January so we can do a final approval of all voting, and final approval of the amount of money we want to withdraw from the Interest bearing account. The vote has to take place after the denial letters are sent out, so that if we need to give any more money, we have time to go through the reconsideration process.

The January meeting will take place **Monday, January 9, 2012 at 2pm**, place TBA. A snow date will be set for Tuesday, January 10, also at 2pm. We will assume the Open Meeting regulation for 48 hour notice will be taken care of by setting the snow date.

Preliminary Agenda for January 2012 meeting:

Approval of minutes

Extensions:

If any grantee from FY2011 wishes to apply for an extension, we will take up the request or January meeting.

Drafting New local guidelines:

We plan to discuss new local guidelines. We want to ask questions that will help applicants create a strong application. Of special interest is drafting a secondary form for school field trips that would give the Council the information we wish from the start. Any other consideration is welcome. Each Council member is requested to brain storm and bring a list to the January meeting.

Re-consideration of Denials

This topic will only be necessary if any applicant enters the process for reconsideration.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg, Secretary