

Amherst Cultural Council
Approved Minutes
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Jones Library, Amherst Room

The meeting was called to order at 5pm by Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair.

Present: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, **Honoré** David, Co-Chair, Ruth Rootberg, (Secretary, Co-Treasurer), Laurie Nisonoff, Joan Temkin, Arnold Friedmann, Sandra Mullin, new member Jim Scott, and liaison Sondra Radosh.

Absent: Gretchen Fox.

Approval of January 9, 2012 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted, and with thanks to Ruth for her minute-taking.

Welcome new member

The Council members welcomed Jim Scott, who will take on the role of Treasurer. Ruth will send him all the Excel spreadsheets from FY2011 so he can see how the reporting developed through the funding process. Ruth will assist Jim with setting up the FY2012 spreadsheet as needed. At present **Honoré** will continue to collect requests for reimbursements.

Purpose of meeting: Grant modification for FY2012-11 Momodou Sarr.

Momodou Sarr wrote requesting a modification in the grant because they did not fulfill their fundraising for a trip to Africa. Instead, they want to go to New York City; the \$200 would be used for transportation.

Discussion: The new supplemental guidelines we have approved for FY2012 will not support requests for transportation for Field Trips. We decided it was fair to consider the request under the older rules.

The trip was originally intended so the participants could get in touch with West African culture. The modified trip will include a visit to a library with an important collection on the African Diaspora that has free access to all. It will help them get in touch with the culture in a more economically efficient way. Comparing field trips to special performances and workshops taking place in a school, it would be more economically feasible for a group to be paid to **go to the school, but that's not possible for this particular curriculum**. In addition, a smaller scaled proposal in the fall would have been more welcome; we knew the \$200 from us would mean successful fundraising elsewhere. We agreed there is cultural value to the trip, and that even though it will serve a small number of students (15-16), it speaks to supporting diversity.

The request was approved unanimously. It will be made clear they only submit receipts for transportation, as is what the request stated. We also want to let them know that a similar request will not be approved next year, because we will no longer fund transportation.

Officer clarification.

Sondra Rodysh requested clarification of titles so she can relay the information to the Town office. At present the slate is:

Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair
Honoré David, Co-Chair
Ruth Rootberg, Secretary and co-treasurer
Jim Scott, Treasurer

Scheduling Fall meetings:

Arnold requests not meeting in the evening. With Ruth and Joan working, we agreed late afternoons, 3:30 - 5:30, preferably on Wednesdays and alternatively on Wednesdays, might be a suitable target. To note: the large meeting room in the basement will be under construction, and open meeting laws require public access at all times. As that room will not be available, and also because we prefer the Amherst Room on the 2nd floor, the published ending time of the meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays must be no later than 5:30. We understand there may be more competition for the space until the Large Meeting Room is once again available, which may be as early as October. We also have the option of reserving a room at the Bangs Center.

The provisional dates for fall meetings are:

3:30 - 5:30pm, Jones Library, Amherst Room

Oct. 17 for scheduling

Oct. 29

Nov 7, 14, Nov. 19, 28

Sondra has offered to book the rooms now. We are requested to make these dates a priority.

Miscellaneous:

Honoré will send an updated roster to everyone.

We thanked Laurie Nisonoff for her service these last six years. She will step down in June.

With no further business and thanks to all for attending this unexpected extra session, the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg, Secretary,
Amherst Cultural Council