

Amherst Cultural Council
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, November 8, 2012
Jones Library, Trustees Room

The meeting was called to order by: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair at 4:30 pm.

Attendance

Present: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Honoré David, Co-chair, Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Jim Scott, Treasurer, Gretchen Fox, Arnold Friedmann, Sandra Mullin, Rachel Mustin, Joan Temkin, & Sondra Radosh, liaison.

Minutes:

The minutes of October 24 were approved with minor typographical and spelling errors corrected.

Calendar of meetings:

Because of Hurricane Sandy, the Monday October 29 meeting was cancelled. We are not considering changes from the list included in the October 24 minutes, and hope to be speedy enough to complete our work with the sessions remaining. However, Ellen will send us a Doodle calendar to consider an additional meeting for December, should we need it.

Storage:

Sondra e-mailed Debra Sobel at Town Hall. The Town is considering taking our old files and relocating them on the mezzanine at Town Hall. The contents would need to **be reduced to fit in a 3-drawer file cabinet under a counter in the Town Manager's office.**

Honoré and Sondra will schedule a meeting to go over the contents together.

Jim will give dimensions of space allocated and negotiate how to acquire the right size cabinet, as the one in the Jones Library is too tall for under-the-counter storage.

Voting decisions (Provisional):

Plan: To go over school field trip grants, school oriented grants, the others, and then revisit the school grants.

Jim passed out a "score card," the first page of the Excel spreadsheet so we can pencil in our decisions.

Joan suggested we consider all applications for one school together (they are not always sequential).

FY2013-1 Crocker Farm School requests \$497 to see The National Circus of the People's Republic of China. They asked for 8 chaperones but don't indicate the number of classes. We discuss what connection they demonstrated to the curriculum. Honoré showed us the curriculum guide, but the teacher didn't say anything about using the guide.

Decision: Denied. 15f - ACC gives preference to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum.

FY2013-1A Crocker Farm School requests \$1,300 for Living History Immigration program. General feeling is this is an interesting grant and few are requested for humanities. It involves the children/audience in a way that not many school grants do.

Decision: \$325 (25%) with a note to revisit.

Note: Arnold requests the letter awarding the grant to include the limited funds available to allocate prevent our giving more; we feel this application is deserving of more. Approved.

FY2013-4 Crocker Farm requests \$500 to go to the Eric Carle Museum. We're wondering whether there is a typo - the grant says "2013" and not "2012." There is a lack of connection to curriculum.

Decision: Denied. 15f - ACC gives preference to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum.

FY2013-1B Fort River requests \$462 for Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Decision: \$112 and revisit.

FY2013-1C Fort River requests \$875 for The True Story of the Three Little Pigs We need to remind them (and all the schools) we're only paying for one teacher as chaperone per class. Sandra will call; we don't know how many classrooms are involved.

Decision: \$200 (25% of total minus chaperones) and revisit.

FY2013-1D Fort River requests \$329 for The National Circus of the People's Republic of China. This grant included the connection to the curriculum and therefore was immediately considered in a more favorable light than Crocker Farm's (FY2013-1).

Decision: \$82 and revisit

FY2013-7 Fort River School requests \$130 for Animal adaptations at the Hitchcock Center.

Decision: \$130.

FY2013-2 Wildwood School requests \$3,465 to visit the fine Arts Production, "Imago:

ZooZoo.”

Decision: \$800 and revisit, perhaps to cut down; **it's a lot of money for one school**, albeit all classes.

FY2013-1E The Common School requests \$203 to see Ladysmith Black Mambazo at the Fine Arts Center. There was no supporting evidence showing how it will be tied into the curriculum.

Decision: Denied: 15f - ACC gives preference to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum.

FY2013-10 The Common School requests \$550 for an all school assembly of African Storytelling.

Decision: \$138 and revisit.

FY2013-11 The Common School requests \$320 for Singers of United Lands (“S.O.U.L.”) Concert. This sounds like a great program, but do we want to give so much to the Common School altogether?

Decision: \$80 and revisit

FY2013-3 Amherst Regional High School requests \$245 for students belonging to People of Color United (POCU) club to attend Lady Blacksmith Mambazo at the Fine Arts Center Center..

Decision: \$150 and revisit.

FY2013-5 Amherst Cinema Arts Center requests \$1,000 for the See-Hear-Feel-Film (SHFF) program.

Decision: \$250 and revisit; we would like to give more.

FY2013-6 Aimee Gelinis requests \$900 for Cultural drumming and participatory concert at Amherst Alternative High School. Discussion ensued.

Decision: \$225 and revisit.

FY2013-8 Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School requests \$300 for **their children's theatre program**.

Decision: \$150.

FY2013-8A Amherst Regional Middle School English Department requests \$1,200 for Shakespeare & Co. to perform **Midsummer Night's Dream**.

Decision: \$600.

FY2013-9 Hampshire Young People's Chorus requests \$375 to perform at the Eric Carle Museum.

Decision: \$250 and revisit.

FY2013-12 Paris Press requests \$800 for Writing and Reading through Illness.

There was no supporting letter indicating the program has been accepted.

Decision: Denied - 9) Venues must be confirmed at time of application.

Note: Ruth requested the denial letter also acknowledge this was their first time applying, and encourage them to apply again, making sure to included supporting documentation. Accepted.

FY2013-13 Roger Bruno requests \$550 for Too Human to perform Celebration of Song-American Songbook and Beyond at the Jones Library.

Decision: \$400 (to fund 2 of the 3 performers).

FY2013-14 The Quick Brown Fox requests \$200 for the reading series. We only gave the \$50 last year. Honoré will look for documentation that might have come in with their requests for reimbursement.

Decision: \$50 and revisit after Honoré reports.

We all agreed we had made a good start, reviewed the decisions to ensure accuracy, and, having no new business, adjourned around 6:20 p.m.

Miscellaneous -Notes for future:

***The Massachusetts Cultural Council needs to revise the budget part of the field trip grant form. We would like to know what their total budget is, and what they are asking of us. In our case, because we only fund the one teacher-chaperone per class, there can be a difference.

***We will consider revising our local guidelines, requesting tie-in to curriculum, not only for field trip grants, but for any regular grant applications where the event or program takes place on school premises.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg, Secretary
Amherst Cultural Council