

Amherst Cultural Council

Minutes

February 13, 2017

Crafts Room, Jones Library

Agenda

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2016

Council's role in the cultural community of Amherst

Suggestions for new ACC members

Other Business

Call to order: Ellen Kosmer, co-chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Council members in attendance: Ellen Kosmer, Honoré David, co-chairs; Andrea Battle, treasurer, Georgia Barnhill, secretary, Sondra Radosh, Jennifer Lind, Martha Toro, Mia Cabana. Lynda Faye was not able to attend. Visitors included Alice Briggs, interested in serving on the ACC, and Richard Roznoy.

Introductions

Members of the ACC introduced themselves to Alice Briggs and Richard Roznoy.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 6 meeting were approved.

Council's role in the community

Richard Roznoy presented the concept of the Fire Station on North Pleasant Street being converted to a performing art/exhibition space for the community. The Planning Board has started to consider the future use of this building. Roznoy has shared this idea with Rene Theberge and the Public Art Commission, which has received the idea favorably. The Public Art Commission will make a formal recommendation to the Select Board and Town Manager. Roznoy came to the meeting to seek the support of the ACC as well. Members of the ACC came to a quick consensus that reusing the fire station as a public art space is an excellent idea. Ellen

and Honoré will draft a letter and will circulate it to ACC members for comment before submitting it to the Public Art Commission, Select Board, and Town Manager.

Roznoy had hoped that the ACC would allocate funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council towards planning for such a project. Ellen explained the ACC's mission to spread the limited funds throughout the community and beyond to support projects of interest to Amherst residents. This mission precludes allocating a year's budget towards the fire house project.

Other Business

Chris Brashear sent a message that the \$500 awarded for his project was insufficient. He will write a new proposal and Ellen and Honoré will circulate it.

Ellen will circulate the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Space Finder site to members of the ACC.

Another topic raised by Ellen was the Greenfield Cultural Council which is receiving the Commonwealth Award from the MCC. Greenfield's Council is very active in the Greenfield community initiating activities. Ellen suggested that the ACC could do likewise. One easy project would be to offer a grants writing workshop and to act collaboratively with the Arts District and the Amherst BID. Another project might be to sponsor an exhibition, "What does an Immigrant Look Like?"

Additionally, the guidelines should be edited before the fall cycle to make them more welcoming. Ellen and Honoré will call a meeting in April for this purpose.

Ellen and Honoré will prepare the annual report for the MCC. In it they should recommend that there be a single arrangement, alphabetic or numerical, for applications throughout the process. Also the MCC should highlight the need for applicants to read local guidelines.

Mia Cabana continues to investigate the storage of ACC records with the Town. The Commonwealth requires records be kept for six years. Gigi will deliver an application package to Mia. Should older records be digitized?

Honoré and others had suggestions for new Council members. Both Ellen and Honoré will rotate off the Council. They will be sorely missed! Jennifer Lind volunteered to be a co-chair; Gigi Barnhill will join her. The maximum number of voting members is nine. Honoré will contact several of the people on her list and suggest they apply over the Town's website. Gigi will contact Gina Chaplain.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Georgia Barnhill, Secretary

