



Newton Cultural Council Meeting
4/24/23

Call to Order 5PM

PRESENT:

Candy Gold, Cheryl Weber, Susan Friedman, Marie Longo, Chris Pitts, Glenda Fishman, Robert Linsky, Sam Belisle, Emily O'Neil, Liv Aber, Clara Chan, Anne Marie Stein, Paula Gannon

Introduction of new member, Cheryl Weber, just confirmed.

Approval of Minutes from 3/27/23

Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Glenda Fishman distributed a grant report. As of meeting, two additional grant documents came in so only five outstanding. 53 grants were awarded for a total of \$51,034
48 have submitted required paperwork.

Youth Council Members

The MCC is hosting a webinar on Tuesday 4/25 focusing on youth involvement in the arts/decision making. Paula will attend and figure out logistics for including youth. If it is high school students, a three year commitment might be difficult.

Grant Recipient Reception

Event is scheduled for September 28, 2023. Request for people to get involved in party planning. Marie, Sam, Clara and Candy volunteered. It was suggested to have recipients who are present introduce themselves and one sentence about their project so that others can know who they are and it allows for more participation.

Community Input Survey

LCCs are required to get community input to help set local priorities. Newton administers a survey annually. Priorities have to be posted a month before grant deadlines and need to

incorporate results from community input. Deadline for posting local council priorities this year is August 31. The Council should begin distributing surveys as soon as possible.

Discussion followed about ideas for distribution and getting broad community involvement. These include soliciting input at Council funded events and community events (Village Day, Sunday Concerts). Also discussion about getting a QR code to send people to the survey.

Chris will send out the survey for people to review and make notes. Everyone should be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. People can send comments to Chris prior to the meeting and then respond to Chris by the 15th for discussion at the next meeting .

New Business

Discussion about question of allowing capital expenses/consumables. Suggestion to emphasize expendable supplies and labor. There was no vote for any formal changes to guidelines.

Marketing

Discussion about how to promote the projects we are supporting. Susan would like to have a flyer that lists events and grantees. Susan referenced Newton Cultural Alliance calendar.

People are asked to post their events on the Newton Arts Calendar.

The issue is whether or not the Council wants to make it a priority to help increase attendance at an event. Question of how we might help grantees promote their events.

Paula has a cultural development newsletter. We can have a section that is devoted to the Newton Cultural Council grantees and events. Possible to have different members of the Council write up the activities for different months. Submissions should be mid-month and cover six weeks, through the end of the following month.

People signed up as follows:

May	Paula
June	Liv
July	Susan
August	Halcyon
September	Chris & Emily
October	TBD
November	Cheryl
December	Anne Marie
January	Sam
February	Robert

March	Marie
April	Clara
May	TBD

West Newton Cinema

Glenda is on the steering committee and provided an overview of the situation and current efforts. The Cinema was impacted by Covid and sold to Mark Development, which has the intention of redeveloping the block with the Cinema.

The family wants to maintain the theater as a theater. Bridget Bali, one of the owner's daughters, has been spearheading the effort. There is interest in a plan to convert the theater for more public use. There is a deadline of August 2024 to have raised sufficient funds and create a non-profit entity to operate the theater. The cost is \$5M to buy the theater back and another \$5M for renovations.

There is now a West Newton Cinema Foundation that is a 501 c 3. Because of the short timeline, the group has opted for a non-traditional campaign by going public immediately before raising any major gifts. The goals are to raise \$1M by May 1, \$3M by August 31, and the full \$9.9M by August 2024. Although there isn't a full business plan or architectural plans, the group believes the \$9.9M will be sufficient to buy the building back and complete renovations. They believe that will allow them to buy the building and renovate.

There has been a conversation with the New Art Center, because there was concern about two capital campaigns for art programs in Newton that would occur simultaneously. The New Art Center capital campaign has been put on hold because of issues with the site the Center was hoping to purchase.

The question was raised about how important it is to have a cinema in West Newton.

Meeting adjourned 7:10pm.