

May 22, 2023
NCC minutes

Call to Order
5:30 PM

Present:

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

Survey

Discussion about what constitutes valid community input and goals for participation. As a percentage of population, Newton's participation has increased but is well below places like Worcester. Emily shared information from Worcester's survey.

Dissemination: Paula can create a QR code for people to link to the survey. June 3 and 4 are Porchfest and Village Day respectively. Suggested to have volunteers at the events to get people to participate.

Content Review: Agreed to constitute an ad hoc subcommittee to review and make suggestions for the final survey. The subcommittee will be Susan, Sam, Chris, and Anne Marie. Chris offered to rewrite and distribute. Agreed to meet in person and schedule for as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report

48 of 53 organizations have completed paperwork. \$46,854 has been sent out. Amount remaining to be disbursed to the five organizations/grantees is \$4,180. Organizations outstanding are as follows:

- Celebrations Returns, Adrienne Knudson \$1800 Newton Philharmonic
- Rebecca McGinnes, Cranky, Musical Storytelling, \$250
- Rebecca—Everybody Signs, \$750
- Ellen Fisher—Fence Art, \$1,120
- Davis Bates III—Generations of Fun \$250

Committee members and staff will reach out again for return of paperwork and signatures.

Report on Grantees/Events

Glenda attended Open Studios and visited four sites including New Art Center. Anne Marie, Cheryl, Candy and Robert attended the Piano Summit. Susan attended Lindy Hop and Dance and Cake. Lindy Hop was great with small audience—deserved better attendance. Dance and Cake felt more like a private than public event with four families with children attending. Candy and Clara also attended Piano Summit. Candy also saw Bruce Springsteen singers. The Klezmer event at the Hyde center also had Cultural Council attendees and was completely full—between 200 and 300 people.

It was suggested that we offer an opportunity for people to review events funded by the Council in the survey to help know what was particularly appreciated.

Director's Report/Items

Event Marketing/Newsletter

Paula discussed the decision to include Cultural Council events in the Cultural Development Newsletter. This month they were not included because of timing. Paula offered to do it for June and then move everyone to the month subsequent to the one they signed up for. Chali and Halcyon are leaving the Council so someone will have to manage their grants. Next newsletter is second week in June. Everyone should double check that the dates for the grants they reviewed is entered.

Final Reports

Discussion of status and process of final reports. They are currently sent in both on-line and on paper. Paula has a site that has all of the forms and things people need. Question of how information is aggregated and if it can be input into a useful database.

MCC Youth Participation Webinar

Paula attended a webinar hosted by the MCC and reported out key findings from the presenters. In attendance at the webinar were two youth members and two LLC councils—Melrose and Amherst. High school students participating loved it—felt it was worthwhile for learning. Youth participation appreciated by Councils. Split in terms of voting membership. For Newton, under 18 would not qualify for a voting membership. Good and helpful but requires energy. Schedule conflicts, long-term time commitment, issues need to be resolved. Discussion about having focus groups or how to reach out and find students according to an appropriate model. No decisions were made at this time for our council about bringing on student members.

Other Business

Marie requested to put grantee reception on next month's agenda to talk about suggested tasks and timeline. A number of items have been completed. The group is looking at tasks three months out. The question was raised about whether or not to give an award or have an honoree. The communal decision was not to have one. The group is getting together to propose speakers, messages.

New Business

Tuesday, July 4th Paula needs ten volunteers for events all day. Chris volunteered his to participate with his wife.

Meeting adjourned 7:07