



Newton Cultural Council Minutes
July 24, 2023

Present: Robert Linsky, Susan Friedman, Cheryl Weber, Livia Aber, Marie Longo, Chris Pitts, Paula Gannon, Glenda Fishman, Emily O'Neil, Clara Chan, Sam Belisle, Ann Marie Stein

Call to Order 5:30 PM

Minutes unanimously approved from June 26, 2023 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

A written report has been distributed. There is \$1380 left to disburse to two organizations who still need to send in paperwork. Soon it will be time to start reporting on FY23 and plans for FY24.

Suggestion was made for Paula to send a letter to the grant "Crankie" via USPS since they have not responded to other methods of communication.

Survey Results

Chris Pitts presented results to date. 86 responses so far, slightly more than last year. There was a discussion about removing the need for email addresses to be submitted, but that is not possible on the google form. Responses generally from people who seem highly engaged in the arts. Demographics skew to 60 and above. Preference seems to be for public performance. Respondents are 86% white. Question about how we address diversity and inclusion. People can go onto the shared drive to look at survey results. Chris showed where the documents are in the shared drive.

Other Business

Candy Gold has resigned from the Council. Discussion followed about reasons for her resignation. Feedback would be helpful for the Council to understand.

Interest in further funding. Chris mentioned that there is a process that for certification that we have not completed that would allow the Council to apply for funding from the NEA for example. Some discussion followed about what the goal of additional dollars might be.

Update to reception

The group met and made several changes after feedback. The time is now 5:30 – 7, a half hour shorter. Who the target audiences are has also been revisited and update and the speaking program is shorter.

Proposed budget and more information about budget was discussed. The budget should be approved and have everybody should feel comfortable with outline. Sam has offered to design the invitation. Evites should be ready by August 11th to send out. Need decision about whether we can ask for food donations. Attendance cap is 375 because of the capacity of War Memorial. Budget pared down to \$900. Susan moved that we are in agreement with a \$900 budget. NCC set aside \$1,350.00 for administrative funds this year. Robert seconded. Unanimous approval. Chris will assemble a video to show at the reception. All grantees will be asked to submit videos and photos to Chris of their event to be included in the show.

The next newsletter is going out soon. Paula asked who had signed up to write what was happening in August and through September.

Other Business

The questions that we have been asking the MCC will be included in their guidelines, not on the applications. However, they have heard us and will update the guidelines.

The MCC recently updated their guidelines, and Paula suggested that all council members review this document prior to the new grant season getting underway.

Next meeting August 28th. We will have to address Council priorities. Will vote at next meeting. Priorities and party might be the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned 7:07