



Newton Cultural Council
9/26/23

Present

Chris Pitts, Livia Aber, Cheryl Weber, Emily O'Neil, Robert Linsky, Glenda Fishman, Susan Friedman, Sam Belisle, Paula Gannon, Clara Chan

Adjudication

Discussion of value of NCC adjudication form in relation to the MCC priorities and what Newton has developed as priorities. Is the form overly detailed, pushing us to do the deep dives? Suggestion that we review adjudication form and bring suggestions to the group. Anne Marie, Emily and Sam will work on the form.

Discussion about deep dives in relation to the MCC's general preference to discourage them. NCC members expressed preference for them as a way to learn more about the community. Paula expressed concerns as to whether or not it encourages bias.

One suggestion would be to do an initial pass, eliminate weaker proposals and then conduct interviews for those that make it past the first round. Last year grants were made in such small amounts that the time to administrate them was arguably greater than the amount of the grant. It might be preferable to have a smaller group of projects and then do deep dives that would be necessary for to make a decision, as written in the Council guidelines. Suggested that it be noted in the minutes when deep dives are warranted and why.

Grants are due mid-October. The timeline would allow us to hold an initial vote to determine 'finalists' for deep dives.

Grantee Reception

Everything is pretty much set. Need help setting up. One more volunteer would be helpful.

Final Reports

Eleven reports outstanding mostly because events have not happened yet. Data is in. Susan has looked at past reports and will look at the current batch.

Treasurer Report

Only two grants have not been paid— for awards of \$260 and \$1120. When those are paid we will have finished FY23 payouts. The FY24 MCC allocation of \$27,000 is coming. Paula and Glenda are meeting with the City Comptroller on Monday and then will file the final report due by October 17 to MCC. Every community was level funded.

Harvest Fair

Does anyone want to do a table and booth? The fair is on Sunday October 15th from 11am – 4pm in Newton Center. It will be very full. It is two days before the grant application deadline. If anyone is interested they can be in touch with Paula.

Grants Change Request

Therapeutic Newton has requested significant changes for their FY23 grant. They have already been paid. The original plan was to have the performance in Newton at the Good Shepherd Community in the summer, but the artists had to go away. They are now asking to use the funding for performance in Waltham and will work to spread the word in Newton. Emily and Glenda support the change. Approved.

West Newton Cinema

Glenda Fishman reported. She is on the steering committee. The people involved in the cinema have set up a foundation and are set up as a non-profit. Movies are still being shown. Summer was successful with Barbie and Oppenheimer. That revenue is for the current business, not the non-profit. The project is to create a business plan for the operations as a non-profit. Leadership has been delegated outside the family. A pro bono non-profit consulting group is helping with business plan. Owners have extended their lease through December or January. The understanding with the developer has to be clarified.

For contributions to date, if the drive is not successful, funds that have been contributed will be distributed to other organizations.

Council Schedule

Last agenda item was council schedule for adjudication. Question of scheduling additional meetings.

Meeting adjourned.