

NCC Meeting
1/29/2024

Present

Clara Chan, Robert Linsky, Livia Aber, Susan Friedman, Cheryl Weber, Sam Belisle, Emily O'Neill, Anne Marie Stein, Chris Pitts, Glenda Fishman, Paula Gannon, Jeff Davis.

Status of grantee announcements notifications and next steps in process

Paula reported that rejection notices were sent out and the two-week waiting period ended, so acceptance letters were sent today, January 29th. Relevant documents have been loaded on the website. There is a link to grantee information page. Everything grantees need is there, including the marketing piece that Susan started, and everyone contributed to. Susan suggested that one more tool might be a list of venues.

The Newton Cultural Council has a web site, as well as an Instagram and Linked In presence. LCC required documentation and materials exist with the City. The website is extra and there is a need for someone to manage the site.

There was one objection to final results, which was responded to by the MCC and the NCC Exec. Committee was notified. It could be possible to follow up with people if there is interest in helping them perhaps with subsequent applications. The person who objected has applied in the past and had previously gotten a call, so thought that there wasn't fair consideration because there was no call this year. There was also concern that images had been submitted but hadn't been attached.

Susan asked about event dates and knowing when things are happening. Paula is keeping a master list and putting in dates as best she can. It was suggested that everyone should go to their adjudication list and let the Council know when things are happening in case people might want to go together.

Piano Summit

The Summit received funding but has been cancelled for this year. It has outgrown its ability to be organized and managed by one person alone. Chris will put in a change order, and funds will be rolled over to next year.

Adjudication Process Debrief

Adjudication form: Chris discussed the form and spoke to its importance in the process. Susan asked about alignment with the MCC form. The subcommittee that reviewed the form worked to make sure it was aligned with the MCC. At issue, however, is that the score is only one person's score, and people may score differently. Possibilities for scoring processes were discussed to include aggregate scores.

Robert raised a question about how the accuracy and reliability of automatic disqualification. Questions are also about Impact on Newton citizens and dates for events (whether they have already occurred).

Discussion about requirement of confirmed dates and venues.

Adjudication committee should review form after the process and come back with a recommendation. List questions and recommendations. The committee is Sam, Emily, and Anne Marie.

Approval of Minutes

Susan moved to accept all minutes in the adjudication process. Robert seconded. Unanimously approved.

Meeting Time

Agreed to hold meetings from 6 – 7:30 on the 4th Monday of every month except for April and May. April will be April 29th, the following Monday. Suggestion to move May's meeting up a week, to May 20th.

Final Report

Chris went through the NCC final report and how it aligns with MCC final report requirements for LCC funding. Discussion about items to add: Susan asked about attendance and information about what grantees expected versus what took place. Anne Marie suggested getting information about the impact of NCC funding for their project. It was also suggested to add a question about how the event was marketed. Did event meet expectations? Why or why not—what would they have done differently?

Chris will revise the form according to suggestions and MCC form.

Paula suggested having people speak at events to credit the NCC if possible. We should have a blurb that people can use to personally credit the council. Marie had written something for the run of show for the grantee reception that could be used.

Cheryl suggested people write up quick summaries/reviews of events they attend. There was a discussion about whether or not that could influence subsequent proposals and whether that would be equitable.

Glenda joined the meeting at 6:34.

Executive Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Discussion about looking at the descriptions of the positions. The Executive Committee should review and revise for next meeting—Chris, Emily, Anne Marie and Glenda.

Discussion about who would be interested in taking on which roles. Anne Marie is interested in co-chairing. Glenda is happy to continue as Treasurer. It was suggested that Clara take on the role of Secretary. Jeff would be interested in managing data. Sam would be interested in helping to lobby for more money but doesn't necessarily have the flexibility to take on a role on the executive committee. Cheryl would be happy to be on committees. Susan, Liv, and Robert were not interested in leadership roles due to other commitments. Jeff once confirmed could be co-chair. Paula mentioned that this is a good time to do a call for NCC members. She will put it in the newsletter.

Newsletter

Paula asked about schedule for Council members to write blurbs in the newsletter about events. Question of defining roles and responsibilities before people sign up for things. Can also be about anything the Council would like to communicate.