

NCC Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2024

In person: Clara Chan, Jeff Davis, Susan Friedman, Paula Gannon, Lisa Rucinski, Linda Sevey, Kay Sloan, Anne Marie Stein, Mignonne Murray

On Zoom: Sam Belisle, Lisa Rucinski, Gloria Gavis

1. Jeff Davis voted in as co-chair
2. Minutes from last 2 meetings approved.
3. Treasurer's Report: No activity this month. State allocated \$27,900 for this grant cycle. City allocated \$30K. Plus unused \$\$ from last time -> \$61,400 for this grant cycle. Annual Report due 10/15. Paula has an appt with the Controller next week to work on this.
4. Grant Modifications— 1. Dinosaur Annex Ensemble requested venue change from Waterworks Museum to Allen Center, Sam and Anne Marie approved. 2. Siren Songs requested venue change from War Memorial to Midway Artist Studios in Boston. Susan and Anne Marie approved, with the plan to give notice to future grantees that they should reschedule in Newton if venue change is needed.
5. Mignonne Murray from the Cooper Center for Active Living — embarking on a transitional year in the new space. Artists find this venue, and the Cooper Center vets to decide who they want to host. Susan suggested that the Cooper Center could curate a series and we could then fund the series rather than several one-off programs. (This needs a followup discussion soon to be resolved.) There is very small attendance for some of these events. The programming is varied— audience from 60 to 100 yrs old. The new Cooper Center will be 32K square feet, with an auditorium (Great Room) which seats 150 and has a stage with a piano. Also a kitchen, offices, exhibits on the first floor. Second floor has gym/basketball court and art/ceramics room, 3 classrooms, conference room, offices. 3rd floor: raised walking track around the gym, pool tables, fitness classroom with mirrors and bars, and a large outside deck overlooking Walnut Street. For use by all Newton residents. Residents of neighboring towns will be able to attend as well. "Older Adult Services" is the new name for "Senior Services". For age 55+. Great room and gym both have technology to support the hearing impaired. Budget for programming? \$30-35K from city budget. Also there's funding from State executive office of Elder Affairs, and Newton Senior Association. Senior Center puts out a newsletter every 2 months. Activities for younger people can happen as well, though not as part of the official programming. Scheduled to open in Fall 2025.
6. NCC Website: It's hosted on a site owned by Chris Pitts. We'll need to move it. Can the city host it? And the MCC website as well? Jeff will find out how many hits our website has been getting. Sam informed that contact@beacongallery.com is somehow linked to our website, and they would like it unlinked.
7. NCC Mission and Activities (Planning and Advocacy)— Anne Marie and Susan met with Gloria Gavis and Meryl from NCP in August, about how to move the discussion forward. Anne Marie nominates Kay and Susie and Sam for a subcommittee to discuss these issues with her and Jeff alternately. Would be nice for the February or March reception to be at the end of a day of convening of the arts people of the city to discuss all this, like a strategic

planning meeting / summit. Paula has ideas to share, leftover from trying to plan such a summit before. Gloria is happy to participate as well.

8. MCC portal / grant submissions: So far we have 9 grant applications and 18 in draft state—we can see it on the MCC portal if we log in via SmartSimple portal. NCC should advertise the grant deadline is on 10/16. Maybe Fig City News (and Beacon?) can advertise it. Also our social media. Grants will be assigned before 10/28, by Anne Marie and Jeff. Anne Marie will send around the scoring sheet again for NCC to consider before our next meeting.
9. Livia Aber resignation— Anne Marie debriefed her.
10. Harvest Fair 10/20 in Newton Centre 11am to 4pm. Anne Marie and Jeff will do this.

Next meeting 10/28 at 6pm.