

## **NCC Meeting Minutes October 28, 2024**

**In person:** Sam Belisle, Clara Chan, Jeff Davis, Julie Fox, Susan Friedman, Paula Gannon, Kay Sloane, Anne Marie Stein, Cheryl Weber

**On Zoom:** Glenda Fishman, Lisa Rucinski

1. Minutes approved for 9/30/24 meeting.
2. Harvest Fair: Anne Marie and Jeff attended. Asked people to express what they wished for Newton arts & culture. Around 10 people responded. Would be good to invite Newton arts organizations to put their promotional materials on our table and perhaps some of them could rotate in to man the booth next time. It was a huge event. More than 3000 people, 800 pumpkins, 100 vendors.
3. Treasurer's Report: Glenda reported filing of our financial report on 10/16/24, with help from Paula and the Newton Comptroller. For this year we have received \$30K from the city, \$27.9K from MCC. Administrative funds set aside: \$1395. \$62,871 is our net which can be given for grants this year, though some of the funds from the city could be used for an arts summit if needed.
4. Website and Social media: Jeff looked carefully at the website and thinks it is unnecessary to maintain the separate private website. Regarding social media, perhaps everyone on the NCC can post on the Instagram account. Perhaps best to just share others' posts. Anne Marie and Jeff will be added as admins to Instagram, Clara to Facebook. Maybe everyone can be added to both. (Up to 20 possible on Instagram)
5. Advocacy Meeting at Allen House: Susan and Jeff attended. There were 3 elected representatives and Kay Khan. Great place to network. Except for Kay, the others all had serious backgrounds in the arts. Vlad felt arts and culture should be privately funded. The other three felt it is important to have public funding. Number one issue was the need for arts venues. Reps from MCC were there. Also someone who works at Allen House who also worked at Needham Cultural Council, who talked about Needham Cultural Council projects involving Murals and poetry. We should also look at what Arlington Cultural Council has done.
6. Grant applications— 80 grant applications total. Paula will share previous spreadsheets so we can see who has applied before. Jeff and Anne Marie will assign 8 grant applications to each NCC member. Each grant application should be presented and discussed for 5 minutes, so we can cover 20 grants per meeting. So four meetings will cover all presentations, and then we will meet again to discuss allocations / final decisions. After each person presents their 8, we will all rate them individually on a scale of 1 to 5 and record the average. Scoring spreadsheet will be sent to all of us in email tomorrow. Based on MCC guidelines. (3 requirements have to be met first— correct time frame, benefits Newton residents, not public school program.) Yes/No

questions should not be scored 1 to 5. Quality can be scored 1 to 5. Deep Diving can help with this. Grant applications will be split up randomly rather than by expertise. Paula suggested reviewing Appendix B on Conflict of Interest Requirements in the [MCC guidelines for LCC programs](#), starting on page 21. Members should abstain from discussion and voting for anything they have a conflict of interest with. Jeff and Anne Marie will reassign anything for which conflicts of interest are declared.

7. Meeting schedule: 11/12, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/16 @ 6pm-8pm. May need a meeting in early January as well. 11/12, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2 will be on Zoom. Our grant adjudication Final Report is due to MCC on 1/16. Two weeks prior to that we need to notify those we are declining to fund. So let's notify all declined by 12/27.
8. Fence Art grant modification request made on 10/18/23— the banner install dates listed in the grant application were 10/23-10/24, but were meant to be 10/24-10/25. Request to adjust the dates accordingly. Jeff and Susan approved this request.
9. Grants at Senior Center and Library: Next meeting, first topic of discussion should be whether or not such grants should be allowed to be funded, perhaps depending on whether they are part of official programming at those venues or not.
10. Community survey— Julie gave [this presentation](#) and suggested we modify our community survey questions to align more closely with the MCC example, while doing a Newton-focused version of their questions 1,2,3, and 7 (findable on pages 5 & 7 of the presentation deck). In order to do this, the NCC needs more strategic focus discussion first. In general, it would be more helpful to ask about benefits, rather than features and trim down the demographic questions. We could also choose to do qualitative interviews of community members (8-10 by each NCC member) to better understand needs.

Next meeting 11/12 @ 6pm-8pm, on Zoom.