

Newton Cultural Council
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020

Attendees: Amelia LeClair, Chris Pitts, Rakashi Chand, Robin Stein, Lakshmi Narayan, Jan Feigenson, Grey Held, Kathy Hassinger, Jen Kaplan, Paula Gannon, Emily O'Neil, Rebika Shaw, Christine O'Donnell

- Meeting began at 9:08am.
- Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- Chris began by saying "adjudication form is working well."
- Quorum was met at 9:13am.

Grants:

- New password was sent
- timeline is the same as last year.
- Still not sure how much money in grants. Hoping to have that information for next meeting.
- October 1st is the date for open submission.
- November 16th will close for submission
 - City of Newton will again add to grant awards with 15K. This amount is in the account now.
- We need to update the google spread sheet on any new grantee information and grantee status.
- Paula suggested we give money out regardless of Covid related issues and close the books for the year.
- Kathleen will check on our financial status to date.
- Currently there is 2-3 K in the NCC account
- There was discussion on adding money to the next year for a grantee that did not use the money this year.

- There was discussion on granting money before the event takes place vs continuing to distribute money post event with related receipts. It is mandatory that grantees fill out the proper paperwork and if they do not, then they will not be able to receive MCC grants in the future.
- Other towns give funds out first. Newton has not.
- As far as existing grants, the grantees have been given an option of cancelling, go online with their event or postpone to another time.
- The MCC has said to give the funds out this year and go back to normal next year.
- A gathering celebration will be planned for all grantees via zoom.
- A motion was presented to grant monies first by Chris, Rakashi seconds.
- Kathleen and Christine oppose, Jen Kaplan abstains
- There was much discussion on getting proper forms filled out by grantees and there may be an huge amount of follow up with each grantee

Council Positions.

Out reach/ Grant coordinator:

- Do we need this? We do not have this role presently.
- Kathleen added that we may need this as we will now have direct funding and may be working with Create Newton
- Chris pointed out that the NCC must remain the same structure as it is now and not join in with Create Newton.
- Amelia reminded us of the meeting running long, and that we all need to do our part and sit on a committee
- Amelia mentioned that there is talk of NCC sitting with Create Newton.

Treasurer

- Kathleen agreed to remain as Treasurer
- Amelia moved to have Kathleen remain.
- All voted yes.

Co Chair

- Amelia proposed Chris as Co - chair and was voted in.
- Emily O'Neal was voted in as Co Chair with Chris

Secretary

- Jane was voted in as secretary.

Welcome New Executive Committee!

2020 Grantee Reception:

- Planning committee consists of Kathleen, Jen and Jane. They will organize a zoom event.
- The mayor will say a few words.
- Slide show of the grantees and their projects
- Chris Suggested 7:30P.
- Council to say a few words.

Committees:

(the names below are from previous notes)

1. Nominating committee (Chris, Emily, Jane, Jen, Kathy, Grey)
 2. Adjudicating committee (Rebika, Chris, Christine)
 3. Reception committee (Kathleen, Jen, Jane)
 4. Community outreach committee (Emily, Robin) (combined with marketing)
 5. Marketing committee (Emily, Robin) (combined with Community outreach)
 6. Diversity committee (Jen, Lakshmi, Kathy,)
 7. Organizational development committee (Jane)
- Amelia suggested to “Send out a note to all of us. These Committees must be filled” Everyone needs to serve on a committee. If they do not volunteer, then they will be put on a committee.
 - Amelia asked that the agenda for the next meeting includes adjudication and new priorities based on black lives matter for next meeting.
 - Chris raised a concern “our form looks for non eurocentric arts and is concerned that we could get sued for specifically stating what we want.”

- Chris sent the form to David Olsen to see if there are any legal issues with our form.
- Kathleen pointed out that everyone is taking on diversity overtly right now so that is fine.
- Amelia suggested "let's just cut copy and paste with the Mass Cultural Council says on their form."
 - Paula asked everyone to please watch the webinar from the MCC.

The link will be included in the letter to the council members.
- Paula recapped four discussion points for our next meeting, September 24th:
 1. Setting our New Priorities
 2. Grantee Party
 3. Update on Financial Status
 4. Set the adjudication date
- (Robin added) 5. Call for Grants
 - Robin will work with Chris and Christine to solicit grant applications.
- Amelia asked if Jane would take on Communications as part of her new role as Secretary. Jane agreed.
- Paula said, "Council page and contact information needs to be updated."
- Note: Paula and Danielle are no longer at City Hall. They are now at 1294 Center Street in Newton Center. It will be a vibrant cultural center someday soon.
- Chris clarified our web information for the Council "We have our own website which is NewtonculturalCouncil.org. The Massachusetts cultural Council has a link to that site, and that has the link to apply for grants. Then there's a page on the city site where all the minutes are kept.

Lisa's last email has the link to update contact information.

Next Meeting:

September 24th at 9am.