Newton Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2021

Attendees:

Rakashi Chand, Patrick Costello, Kathy Hassinger, Lakshmi Kadambi, Jen Kaplan, Jane Feigenson, Grey Held, Chris Pitts, Robin Stein, Kathleen Wright, Paula Gannon, Danielle Moriarty, Guest - Chail Narv Dones.

Meeting began at 9:05A

Approval of Feb 25th minutes with one revision. Approval of March 18th with revisions.

Financial Update:

* Kathleen Wright will update the council after her meeting for March 19th with Paula. They are meeting to review the financial status.
* The monies from the MCC of $21,600 has been received.
* To date 20 grantee applications have been received as well as two grantees that had extensions from the 2020.
* One grantee from the 2021 group requested they receive reimbursement after their event. Chris will reach out to Timothea to make sure this is in line with the MCC policy.
* Deadline for completed events is one year.
* Kathleen also brought up that she will not renew her council position and will need to find a replacement. Patrick agreed to take on this role.

Nominating Update:

* Chris noted the process to join the council is on the NCC website.
* Patrick will meet with the Nominating working group to outline the process in greater detail.
* Paula reminded the council that this is a position that is appointed by the Mayor. With that Paula as the City official is to meet with a potential candidate with the company of one council member.
* For now the Council may recruit candidates. However no official appointments can occur until their is a final and clear direction provided by the legal Department.

Adjudication Update:

* Patrick will meet in May with the adjudication working group and review the process and what we have as a council learned and how we can make improvements. We need to appoint a point person for this working group.

Council Processes:

* Paula discussed the committees and processes and how the Council governs in accordance to the legal policies of the City. How does the NCC work in comparison to the other groups?
* The NCC is a slight bit different as it is working in conjunction with the MCC and its policies.
* There was discussion on wether to pause in the work of the NCC or continue with its work.
* It was decided to keep working until another direction is presented.
* Paula reiterated that the council is under the direction of the Executive Team which is ultimately led by the Mayor. With that the NCC must be held accountable to the City of Newton, in all its action, language and organization.
* The June 17th meeting will have two guests, Maura O’Keefe will present on Open Meeting Law and Nicole Banks from Parks and Recreation.
* Paula also directed the council to replace the use of word committee to working group.

Reception/Event:

* Jen reported the event will take place September 23rd. Details to follow.

Outreach/Marketing:

* Rakashi reported that work is being done to help promote the work of the council.
* Jane Created a timeline and will work with Chris to develop access to social media.
* Rakashi researched hoot suite which is a social media access site but found it expensive,$500 a month for an organization.
* A new survey will be developed and promoted in aim of gaining more input and feedback from the arts community.
* Chris talked about the Cambridge Arts community and the City of Cambridge gives 1% back to the arts which is very helpful. Something Newton should look into.
* Paula offered placing grantee focus in the Spotlight section of the Tab.
* Content is needed on a Tuesday by 5:00P for the following paper’s distribution.
* Robin suggested each council member to reach out to their prospective grantee for the Tab’s Spotlight blurb. Approximately 500 words with a photo was requested.

Other:

* Chali Narv Dones was introduced and is interested in joining the council. Chali gave a bit of her background to the team.

The next meeting will be held on June 17th @ 9:00A.