Newton Cultural Council Meeting

August 19, 2021

The War Memorial Newton City Hall.

Minutes

Attendees:

Chali Naru Dones, Jane Feigenson, Paula Gannon, Candy Gold, Kathy Hassinger, Grey Held, Amelia LeClair, Danielle Moriarty, Chris Pitts, Mark Trilling, Kathleen Wright. Guests: Gloria Gavris, Nicole Banks.

The hybrid meeting began at 9:05A .

Chris Pitts opened the meeting acknowledging the outgoing Council members and thanked them for their commitment and dedication. These members included, Rich Frost, Jenn Kaplan, Kathleen Wright, Rebika Shaw Bendayan, Lakshmi Narayan Kadambi,

Commissioner Nicole Banks:

* Commisioner Banks, began by thanking all those who volunteer, especially over the Covid pandemic. The commitment of the council and so many other volunteers are what helps in keeping the arts and culture thriving in Newton.
* The Commissioner expressed her desire to keep outdoor events active and is always looking for new opportunities and event venues.
* She spoke of her extensive background in supporting arts/culture through her positions with prior communities including the Westwood area where she worked for 7 years prior to joining PRC in Newton.

Grant Reporting:

* To date FY 2021, there have been 31 grants funded @ $20,950, receiving contracts and W9.
* 7 Final Reports received
* 17 grantees have not submitted paperwork
* Remaining to payout FY 21 is 19 grants @$11,900
* Funds dispersed postponed projects are 5 @$3,600
* Not yet paid out for postponed projects are 7 @ $4,230 (some of these projects may be cancelled permanently).
* There is work to be done by the council to determine the status of outstanding documentation and when events are scheduled to occur.
* Votes were taken on the following FY 2021 grantee events.
* Diane Wong changed her Newton contact from the Newton Library in person program to Eliot Church with a virtual pod cast.The council voted to approve this move with one opposing vote.
* Community Farm has changed from a free event to charging a fee in hopes it would keep the numbers down over the Covid crisis. The Council voted to approve this unanimously.
* Any changes to grantee events must follow protocol and paper work must be filled out and submitted for the Council to vote.

Council Priorities:

* Chris talked about revising the NCC priorities on the MCC website.
* Kathy Hassinger gave the Diversity Committee update which included the following statement:

NCC will strive to be an anti-racist, inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible organization. We seek to increase funding for programs in the arts, humanities and sciences, created by or featuring BIPOC applicants and audiences.

NCC will create internal organizational systems, processes, structures and cultures that encourage any person to engage with us. In creating and anti racist cultural organization within our community.

* We need to be clear on our priorities and make sure the grantees understands what the direction is and how their projects tie into this.
* Grantees need to understand what percentage is given to projects that speak to the Council’s set of priorities.
* Kathy made a motion to accept the wording with edits as part of the Council’s priorities. All approved.
* Emily and Chris will send out the link for the new MCC grant system.
* Council members will now have new individual log in. Paula requested that each member review the MCC webinar about the new MCC site and establish their individual log in. Inform Paula of any problems logging in.

Marketing:

* The google docs has a PR/Marketing file that lists all addresses
* The mail chimp account presently has 300 addresses
* The marketing committee will meet in September to discuss ways to promote the application cycle.
* Need a pdf of the open application announcement
* The MCC is hosting a webinar on the new grant platform.

Governance:

* A doodle poll will be sent out to figure out what day and times work best to meet.
* Many requested evening meetings.
* Emily made a motion to add to the agenda the following on going items:
* Grantee event update
* Grantee reporting
* In light of Covid, a motion was made and all approved to not hold the September 23 Grantee reception.

The next meeting will be on September 23rd @ 9:00A via zoom.