



Minutes

Newton Cultural Council
Monday, May 23, 2022
5:33 Call to Order

Present

Paula Gannon, Chris Pitts, Glenda Fishman, Emily O'Neil, Candy Gold, Grey Held, Kathy Hassinger, Danielle Moriarty, Amelia LeClair, Mark Trilling, Anne Marie Stein

Marie Longo observing.

Treasurer's Report

The Council approved 54 applications for a total distribution of \$48,375. 45 of 54 grantees have provided the required documents for payment. One is in process and the rest have received their checks. 9 organizations/grantees still need to provide documents. \$40,275 has been disbursed, with \$8,100 left for disbursement.

The City account balance is \$10,817 which includes carryover from prior years. \$800 for the Newton Arts Association and \$700 to Rona Leventhal for Prince of Pirates from prior years was recently disbursed.

Wednesday's City Council meeting includes an expected vote on matching MCC funds. Mayor Fuller will match funds from MCC's prior year grant. The amount of the match is \$23,800 if all approved.

Adjudication

Anne Marie asked to retitle the first section to include social impact as part of the criteria which would make it more in line with the evaluation criteria that are listed in the section. Discussion centered on the quality of programming that has been funded and what the general direction of funding should be. There are a number of Senior Center and Newton Free Library (NFL) grant applications, and it is important to consider these places as venues, not as the programmer. Emily and Chris previously spoke with the Mayor and were advised to handle it in this manner.

The Council continues to adjust the adjudication form for better accuracy and alignment with priorities.

Danielle reminded the Council that the determination of funding priorities should be informed by community surveys. The Community Survey needs to be done again. Additional discussion about how surveys are structured can influence outcome. There was also a question as to whether or not the City has access to evaluation platforms that could help with tabulating results (e.g. Qualtrics) The council currently has a google form.

Diversity and Outreach

Discussion of the membership of the Council and the need for more diversity. The Council should refer to city demographics at least as a starting point. Paula mentioned that it is not required that someone be a permanent resident of the City to be on the Council. She suggested that someone from one of the colleges might be a good idea.

Additional discussion about the Council's website and images, which show no diversity. This should be addressed. Chris will look at what we have.

There was discussion of suggestions of people to reach out to. Also, a question of changing structure to make a more welcoming environment. Social media is one avenue to consider—what are we representing.

Reception

The New Art Center will have tents up in August and could host the event under the tents or inside. The War Memorial is another potential venue.

Wednesday August 24th at the War Memorial was decided on as the preferred date and location.

Other Items

For the next meeting, the Performance Pavilion should be on the agenda. Public comment meeting will be on June 7th. There is a page on the website about where we are in process. Information can be found at the link below.

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/cultural-development/newton-centre-bowl-performance-pavilion>

Meeting adjourned 6:48