

Newton Cultural Council

Minutes

January 23, 2023

Present: Glenda Fishman, Chris Pitts, Robert Linsky, Susan Friedman, Emily O'Neil, Marie Longo, Candy Gold, Clara Chan, Halcyon Mancuso, Sam Belisle, Paula Gannon, Jacob Lavoie, Anne Marie Stein

Call to Order 5:34

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for meeting of 12/20 submitted by Jane Feigenson.

Approved with 10 voting for, 1 abstention with grammatical correction.

Financial Report Discrepancy

The Council has an additional \$829 to allocate. Funds that were held as administrative funds exceeded the allowable amount from the Mass Cultural Council and so need to be distributed.

Anne Marie made a motion to allocate the funds to the second tier of recipients according to scoring that would allow as many recipients to receive 50% of their request as the money allows. Halcyon seconded. Unanimously approved.

Annual Calendar

Chris brought up the issue of the Council's calendar outside of the grant process and how we should organize committees and our work. A general calendar is in shared documents and should be the basis for further work.

Meeting dates were sent in the agenda. September 25th is Yom Kippur. Agreed that the meeting on September 25th will be moved to the following day.

Adjudication Debrief

Discussion about how best to discuss the grant process and how to gather input and move forward for next year. Emily and Chris have had discussions with various members of the Council. Emily suggested Robert lead the process to gather input from all council members through a survey. Agreed that everyone should email Robert with thoughts that can then help shape a more specific survey or method for suggestions. Anne Marie will help Robert and Emily and Chris will also participate. Questions raised include consistency, alignment between MCC guidelines and application forms and issues the NCC has raise, size of grants, and priorities. These questions are all germane to completing LCC priorities that need to be submitted to the MCC later this year. It was also suggested that MCC staff be invited to a future meeting.

New Business

Paula presented next steps for finalizing grants and what is now needed. Jacob will upload final amount and recipients will receive notification via Smart Simple, including required documents. Additionally, required documents will be posted on the Newton Cultural Development page so that recipients will be able to find required documents if lost in email.

Paula requested assistance for creating marketing materials for posting and social media announcing grants. Chris agreed to write up descriptions.

Reminder that Newton is hosting a reception for City volunteers at the War Memorial tomorrow, January 24th, at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned 6:35