

Andover Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 07:00 PM
Venue: Virtual/Cisco WebEx meeting
Attendees: Leslie Malis, Susie Novick, Ann Ormond, Denise Johnson, Peter Fenzel, Judith Farzan, Morgan von Prella Pecelli, Jessica McCormack, Rosemary Halloran.
Scribe: Peter Fenzel
Called to Order: 7:04 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned: XXX

Topics for discussion

1. Review & approval of minutes
 2. Review & approval of Treasurers' report
 3. Update on current status of FY2021 applications – denials sent out
 4. Review & discussion of acceptances. Final determination of specific funding amounts for each
 5. Set meeting dates through June
 6. Other business
 7. Adjourn
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Leslie called the meeting to order

1. Review and approval of minutes

Denise requested that the previous minutes be amended to include the correct \$10,281 amount, group accepted the change.

Approval was moved and seconded. Group unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

2. Review and approval of treasurer's report

Approval was moved and seconded. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

3. Update on current status

Leslie suggested to the group that the denial letters were available in the council dropbox and encouraged the council to review them.

All denial letters have gone out.

Leslie updated the group on the task at hand – to review the approved grant application for specific amounts.

The group discussed the final requirements as they pertain to the special circumstances instituted by the MCC with regards to location flexibility during COVID. Has the applicant made a feasible effort to make sure the project is likely to happen? Some small greater degree of flexibility is warranted.

Also talked briefly about ADA requirements – for provisional approval of Art By the River project – are there modifications that can be made?

The group suggested finding a different location. They could keep the location they have planned and add a different location by the entrance. They'd have to put it in their flier.

We are suggesting that they have to come back with a proposal for how to make it is ADA compliant. It is not the council's role to make their proposal ADA compliant.

4. Review and discussion of acceptances and funding determination

Approved projects – voted funding amounts

Project	Discussion/Decision
Natural Deathcare Id: 46797 Collaborative	Requested \$480 – Approved \$300
Nicolette Nordin Heavey, 46628	Requested \$1,250 – Approved \$1,000
Custom Creations for Clubs Jennifer Pieroni 45719	Requested \$1,400 – Approved \$1,006
Virtual visit with author Dan Gutman	Requested \$500 – Approved \$350

45675	
Andover Center for History & Culture 45317	Requested \$600 – Approved \$600
Wonderland Spectacle Co. Art and Nature Videos for 45435	Requested \$600 – Approved \$600
Spotlight Playhouse 45030	Requested \$500 – Approved \$500
Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras, Inc. 43384	Requested \$500 – Approved \$500
Friends of Andover Memorial Hall Library 43259	Requested \$850 – Approved \$500
Delvena Theatre. Jack the Ripper 39534	Requested \$575 – Approved \$575
Hanging Display for Community Art Shows 42151	Requested \$1,000 – Approved \$1,000
The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild with Andover High 42267	Requested \$500 – Approved \$500
What is Opera, Anyway? Podcast 39892	Requested \$750 -- Approved \$750
Andover Choral Society 41734	Requested \$500 -- Approved \$500
Shawsheen 40095 Art by River	Requested \$1,000 – Approved \$750
39242 Katie Simco First Sight	Requested \$600 – Approved \$600
Tim Cain 40748	Requested \$250 – Approved \$250

Discussion notes:

We noted how we had previously voted to accept changes and modifications to the 2020 grant for Spotlight Theater, and that the contact for spotlight had sent through paperwork for reimbursement.

Noted that the Northeast Mass Youth Orchestra is free and helps young musicians who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate.

Discussion of the possibility for grantees to offer free tickets to the community as a condition of receiving grant money in order to magnify public benefit.

Suggest we ask this of all applicants. Put them at the senior center, the library, etc.

Suggested that next year we can put into our guidelines that the free tickets to the community be made available.

Made this a caveat for Spotlight.

Rosemary had a tour of the senior center to look at the space for the proposed display for community art shows and says the space has a lot of promise.

The future senior center a place for people to be audiences, and for local artists to show their work, which is something the arts community has long sought out in our local area.

We discussed in the spring and summer reaching out to the conservation commission and other greenspace managers in town to make sure that if we are having artists do work in the greenspace there are places that are accessible to the disabled per legal requirements.

Art by the river has until September to figure something out, so they have the opportunity to make this work.

We also discussed the donation of excess art supplies from Art by the River after the event.

After our first round of discussion, we had \$106 in disbursements left to disburse

Suggested we up the educational theater guild to their requested \$500 and the additional \$6 went to custom creations for clubs

Voting

The council voted on each individual project and approved all our revised amounts unanimously, with one small outlier:

Judith Farzan recused herself on the vote on project 40095, Art by the River, as the organizers suggested a group of organizations they might seek to donate excess art supplies to if they had them when their project was owner, and Judith was affiliated with one of those potential recipients.

Next steps

What happens is Leslie and Denise are working on the annual report – once that is okayed by the MCC, at that point we can send our acceptance letters out, along with the amounts

Acceptance letters go out by email along with links to reimbursement, publicity and other resources they need.

Once those go out, we can go publicizing.

Leslie will get in touch with the Townsman to run an article on arts in the pandemic as well as the organizations and amounts.

Discuss of takeaways and improvements for next season

We have always in the past have a post-funding reception, a publicity thing. Events everywhere from the Addison gallery to the Shawsheen river, Andover Bookstore, etc. And we would invite all the organizations who had received funding to get wine and cheese, cocktail hour, meet and greet.

Last year we were looking for old town hall as the venue to do it.

We are doubtful it is happening this year.

Do we want to do something virtual?

Do we want to have a social media promotion of some sort?

Discussed the possibility of doing video tutorials on how to do grant application in addition to the videos that are available from the MCC. Could we potentially create a working group that would explore creating these?

Can we use a model application?

Is it possible to do individual mentoring?

We may see some changes to the MCC due to new leadership on the state level – we expect to see changes in the spring and early summer.

5. Set meeting dates through June

Discussed the different days to possibly hold meetings and came up with the following calendar:

- Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m. Eastern

Other business

No other business

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned