

2015 JAN 16 AM 9:21

Minutes

Belmont Cultural Council
September 18, 2014
Belmont High School Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:45

Present: Ken Stalberg, (chair); John Baboian, Sarah Ellison, Lauralee Gianotti, Annette Goodro, Jirair Hovsepian, Anne Quirk (treasurer)

Absent: Anne Levy, Rebecca Richards, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas

Chair Ken Stalberg welcomed new members Lauralee Gianotti and Annette Goodro and welcomed back Sarah Ellison, a former chair who is returning to the council after being away for a few years. The new members introduced themselves and the old members reintroduced themselves.

Anne Quirk reported that there are no minutes from the BCC's last meeting because last year's secretary moved away from town before preparing them. However, since the final meeting of 2013 was the voting meeting for FY2014 grants, the list of approved grants serves as a good proxy for formal minutes. Ms. Quirk shared a spreadsheet of those grants, totaling \$4650.

Sarah Ellison volunteered to serve as the BCC secretary for the remaining meetings.

Mr. Stalberg reported that the BCC will receive \$4520 from the state for its FY2015 grants. Ms. Quirk reported that she has met with Belmont's assistant -accountant but is not yet sure how much unencumbered money the BCC has in its town account. She is confident, however, that the council will have extra money that can be used, if the council so decides, to supplement FY 2015 state funding.

The whole committee discussed the value of asking grant applicants to make brief presentations to the BCC. Last year the committee experimented with this, with mixed results. All the returning members thought the presentations were interesting, although not always to the benefit of the presenter. In addition, the members also felt that grantees whose schedules allowed them to appear had an unfair advantage over those whose schedules didn't allow them to come.

The committee unanimously voted against asking FY 2015 applicants to make presentations before the committee.

Mr. Stalberg reported on his publicity efforts to promote the FY2015 application deadline, including contacting various media outlets and posting information at public buildings around town. Mr. Hovsepian reported on Meet Belmont, where he helmed the BCC table, but he felt his efforts would have been boosted by a brochure.

He proposed that the committee create such a brochure and distribute it widely around town. Ms. Quirk raised questions about cost, in terms of money and time, and efficacy, feeling that personal targeting of town institutions, -- e.g. PTOs -- is a better use of resources. The committee also discussed enhancing the BCC Facebook page.

Mr. Stalberg recapped the BCC's procedures and guidelines, putting special emphasis on the requirement that all applicants must be from Belmont or have a local partner in Belmont. He explained that the committee tends to have four fall meetings: one introductory meeting in September; one in mid-October, soon after the application deadline; and then two in November or early December to discuss and vote upon approvals and funding.

New members were also urged to take the online new members course at <https://www.mass-culture.org/training.aspx>

Mr. Stalberg reported that Rebecca Richards, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, had a matter for the council to consider. A FY2013 grantee, Janet Amdur, who is spearheading a mural project on Trapelo Road, was not able to complete her project in 2013 or 2014 and now wants to roll over the grant money for another year. The committee voted no, she could not -- too much had elapsed and the parameters of the project kept evolving. But it also requested that Ms. Amdur be urged to apply for a 2015 grant. The project is still worthy one.

The date of the next meeting will be determined by email, possibly a doodle poll.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Quirk, acting secretary