

Hubbardston Cultural Council
Meeting 9-30-13
Minutes

In attendance: Laura Foley, Carla Jones, Renée Malowitz, Laura Milko (Chair), Cindy Nordstrom

Assign Secretary (Laura Foley volunteers to take minutes), record approvals and denials for November meeting

Member Update:

Carla Jones carlajonescreative@gmail.com Chair End 10/1/14

Laura Milko mommymilko@gmail.com Co-Chair 8/7/13 – 8/7/16

Cindy Nordstrom sidnordstrom@gmail.com 9/1/09 - 9/1/15

Renee Malowitz rmalowitz@gmail.com 9/9/09 – 9/9/2015 Resigning due to potential conflict of interest.

Will wait until we have five official members

Laura Foley laura@lauramfoley.com appointed 7-29-13

Emily Langer eelanger@gmail.com End 9/1/15 Resigning-due to moving to Florence, MA

Christine Ruston cruston@charter.net term has ended 10/1/13 declined reappointment

Member Recruitment: Seeking a more diverse council

- Posters are around town to try to attract more diverse members: men, young people, etc
- Laura F. to post recruitment notice on Hubbardston Town Facebook site
- Johanna Henning has volunteered, needs to fill out application
- Tom Berd – Trying to recruit, has form, needs to pass form in

Community Questionnaire

HCC is required to do a community questionnaire every three years.

Last done 9-2012, very little feedback received.

2013-2014 Grant news

- Posted Local funding guidelines, grant application on HCC website (<http://www.mass-culture.org>), Hubbardston Town website, fliers with applications, cable channels
- Publicized the grant program to promote local awareness, and to inform the public of the availability of funds
- Have received 3-4 grant applications
- Talking about more publicity: Charter channel, *Barre Gazette*, School Newsletter
- Talking about publicizing which grants have been approved.
- Talked about publicizing when HCC-funded arts events take place. This would be difficult because we don't know when the artists' events will take place. Laura M. points out that this would set a precedent that future HCC groups might not want to continue.
- Approval/denial letters can be customized to include information on how and where to publicize events (*Barre Gazette*, *Telegram & Gazette*, *Gardner News*, Facebook, On the Common (*Telegram* website), fliers, two town signs, HCS newsletter)
- VOTE ON ABOVE: YES**
- Denial letter should be amended to broaden the reasons why a grant was denied. Laura M. wants to make a more customized letter.
- Suggestion made to state total amount of money to be allocated in order to skew the requests toward smaller amounts

Budget

The state Senate approved a budget amendment that will increase funding for the arts, humanities, and sciences through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) by just over \$1.6 million. The Senate FY14 budget will allocate just over \$11 million for MCC, a 17 percent increase over 2013 9.5 million.

Availability of funds: \$4,250.00 an increase of \$380.00, from last years \$3870.00

Total Available for Granting 2014 \$4930.00

Go over completed and outstanding Grants-

Supported 2013 Grants

- Fitchburg Art Museum
- Listening: Youth enrichment
- John Porcino
- HPL: Hands-on History
- Maplewinds Arts Blues and Jazzfest
- Yoga, Wisdom, and Music
- HPL Poetry Open Mic extended to November 2013 (*Vote: Yes/Laura F. recused herself because she is a Library Trustee*)
- Renée, Colleen Dancing Days asking for an extension to November 2013 (*Vote: Yes*)

Grants yet to be reimbursed from 2013

- HPL Coffeehouse
- Midstate Trail project art on the trail
- Maplewinds *Nutcracker* performance
- *Seussical*

-We must spend any "buffer" left over from last year (\$731.50) or else we'll lose it. There is not supposed to be any funds carried over from previous years.

-VOTE ON THE ABOVE POINT: YES

-Not sure how this much money ended up left over. If it's operator error, there's a concern that we'll need this money for something we overlooked.

-Laura M. thinks this is an accounting error from a previous HCC group.

-Accounting is taken care of by the town, but the HCC keeps an informal account

-The town's fiscal year runs July 1–June 30, but the HCC's accounting runs from January 1–December 31.

-Laura M. explained how the grantmaking process works

Next:

-Reporting to the MCC must submit the LCC Account Form, completed by the city or town, to the MCC through the online office by October 15 each year

Schedule early November voting meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 6:30 pm

