

Amherst Cultural Council

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

5:00 via Zoom

Council members in attendance: Matt Holloway, Jennifer Lind, Arthur Pero, Christy Anderson, Julianne Applegate, Rachel Wang, Joy Jarne, Robin Thompson, Leah Neuburger

Special guests in attendance: Jennifer Moyston, Leah Carver, and Sean Mangano

1. Meeting called to order: Julianne read the meeting script and called the meeting to order.
2. Approve minutes: approval of minutes postponed until end of meeting
3. Jennifer Moyston - Assistant Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Matt introduced Jennifer who was invited to speak and help us anticipate questions we have and update the council with the DEI office in Amherst. Jen is a lifetime resident of Amherst and has worked for the town for 9 years in various roles. She started with administrative roles and this morphed into the DEI role, DEI committees, and town training in DEI language. She is a community participation officer and currently planning Juneteenth event and jubilee. DEI training everyone is the goal but the town has over 500 boards, staff and committees that need training periodically. She suggests we let others know about the ACC at town events and outside town events. This brings a broader understanding of the ACC and the make-up of Amherst town government. Reach out to the PGO, LSSE (Amherst Rec), and set up a table at CRESS events at Rolling Green (June 23, 4:30-6:30 pm) and Village Park (June 11, 12-2 pm). Is there a way for town committee members to meet each other? She will look into ways of bringing committees together – fabulous idea! CRESS events are a great way to broaden ACC outreach and encourage people to apply for grants and join the ACC. Juneteenth, Heritage Walk (maybe), and the Jubilee are great opportunities this month. How were event locations selected? Jen commented that people in big apartment complexes are typically left out of local government, have a lack of access, and need ways to become empowered. Are the schools a good way to reach adults and other town members? CRESS is reaching out to the PGO newsletter weekly (and trying other school opportunities like sport teams, business leaders, etc. and their teacher liaisons) but finding effective ways to reach schools and families is challenging. Thank you Jennifer!
4. Grants Updates: No grant amendments at this time.
5. Membership Update: Four new members are needed because of vacancies. Matt introduced Leah Carver who is interested on joining.
6. Liaison Update: ACC email will be forwarded to ACC after Cyndy's departure. Angela Mills is currently the temp liaison but we need a new one.
7. Sean Mangano, Town Finance Director, and Leah Carver, Town ARPA Grants Manager, (economic empowerment activities) Sean thanked the ACC for their input in the early listening sessions. They learned a lot about what artists need from the town and he shared his screen. They are looking into how to hire a town arts manager.
8. He presented three goals but focused on their contract for Vendors/Artists and for funding events through 2024. Can the town arts manager be our town liaison? We could

meet with the new arts manager to find out how we can share and how to help each other. The position will be arranged by contract through the BID and the Cultural District through 2024 but could possibly be extended. New grants would likely be of interest to our potential grantees. The grants will benefit businesses and residents (Family Outreach of Amherst).

9. New business 48: Amherst Media sent a release form but that's all for now.
10. July and August meeting dates: Accessibility subcommittee was formed of Matt, Julianne, and Christy and a July meeting date will be determined by the subcommittee members. August meeting date is August 16th at 5:00 pm.
11. Adjournment at 6:30