



Amherst Cultural Council

April 11, 2023

6:00 PM

Via Zoom:

Minutes

In attendance: Matt Holloway, Julianne Applegate (co-chairs), Rachel Wang, Robin Thompson, Cody Rooney, Eleanor Walsh, Leah Neuburger (joined 6:14), Christy Anderson (joined 6:21), Mindy Domb (guest)

1. Call to order
2. Public comment from George Ryan urging the ACC to endorse the Elementary School Building Project vote
3. Discussion about merging with the already established Fall block party to provide for an event showcasing grantees. This would be instead of the spring block party that was canceled.
 - a. We could work with artists who have shown interest. \$2500 from \$7500 we set aside would pay for stage, lighting, and production.
 - b. Julianne makes motion to roll \$2500 to the fall block party and Rachel seconds the motion.
 - c. Robin proposes an amendment that we remain flexible in the \$2500 so we can cover costs for ASL interpretation and whatever else may come up. Julianne and Rachel accept the amendment.
 - d. We have a list of grantees would want to be involved.
 - e. We unanimously vote to approve the motion.
4. We need to spend funds for the festivals and projects grant (fully accepted at \$2500) by June 30th. There is an amendment process that we could apply for to direct the funds to a different project.
 - a. Brainstorming some options for pivoting our grant:
 - i. Ancestral bridges is an event run the weekend before Juneteenth.
 - ii. There is also the Juneteenth event run by the town that we could provide a music headliner for.
 - iii. There is also the possibility of the town run summer music series running Fridays from July into August.
 - b. Mindy Domb wants to work with the ACC to pivot funds specifically because there were circumstances outside of our control, and the state was late with getting us funds. Mindy loves the idea of community partnership with existing events.
 - c. Unsure what the MCC response will be but we are hopeful.

- d. Rachel motions and Cody seconds the motion to make an amendment to our festivals and projects grant to move our funds to contribute to the town of Amherst's Juneteenth celebration instead of the spring block party.
5. Grant amendments:
 - a. We approve Hampshire young people's choir moves their venue.
 - b. Wildwood school pushed a project onto PGO and community and the project was unable to be completed. They still want to hold on to the \$700 grant to continue the project. Matt motions to approve to accept the amendment and Robin seconds the motion. The roll call vote passes unanimously.
 - c. Amendment to repurpose funds for the African heritage reparations assembly for \$500. We will have more details next month.
 6. Rachel asks a community survey the MCC sent out and we discuss sending out surveys to the community
 7. Julianne motions for the Cultural Council to form a clear position about the new school plan. Leah seconds the motion. We talk about the importance of accessibility being a reason for renovation. This was an issue brought to us by the community. There is a question on how this is connected to the arts and if we should take a stance on this, and how. Robin and Christy argue that this isn't something the cultural council has a stake in. Leah discusses how public schools are important to cultural progress and many events are held at the public schools. Cody votes in support. Robin and Christy abstain. Matt recuses himself.
 8. Julianne motions to adjourn (7:46)

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