

Amherst Cultural Council
ACCEPTED Minutes
November 1, 2010
Large Meeting Room, Jones Library

Present: Ann Woodbridge (Chair), Katya Ites (Treasurer), Sandra Mullin, Arnold Friedmann, Ruth Rootberg (Secretary), Laurie Nisonoff, and staff liaison Sondra Radosh.

Ann gave her cell phone for last-minute contact before meetings: 413 687-7089

Ann distributed the agenda and contact list. Note: Laurie will be sending a change of address that Ann will redistribute to us.

Ruth distributed copies of corrected minutes. Minutes were accepted as corrected. Ruth will ask for a 48-hour turn-around for corrections after she e-mails the first draft of the minutes. In response to Ruth's question about our obligation to post our minutes, the following information was given: Public disclosure of only the final minutes where all grant awards are listed corrected will be posted to Town Hall at the very end of the granting cycle. They will also be posted on the MCC website. If any public individual requests to see other minutes before that, they would be granted that request.

Katya distributed a chart showing the provisional amount grant awards for application # 1-25. The chart also indicates how much more we would have left to award if we don't make any changes. With the addition of application #61, there is a total \$60,444 requested; we must reduce the awards by \$35,194 if we stay with the \$25,250 we have chosen to give. Having looked at almost half the applications, we have already saved \$15,327, so we might be on target.

Katya reminded us we have the option to draw more money from the interest and administrative accounts. Ann advised us that we will know better after mid-term elections (November 2) what the outlook will be for arts councils, and that we should hold off any decisions until after the elections. If the proposition on sales tax does pass, that will have implications for us for FY2012, and we might not want to spend more this year.

There was a discussion about Donna Hebert who has not yet attended a meeting and not yet taken the online training. If she remains on the council and takes the training, we will be able to streamline grant awards, whether or not she is able to attend meetings this year. If she resigns, then we can streamline.

There was also mention of Christopher O'Brien's blog that was published after he attended the October 25 Council meeting. There are factual errors in it. Ann wrote him to invite him to attend another meeting, but did not call attention to the errors. If he attends again, she will point them out to him.

Ann reminded us of the November 9 event in honor of Stan Rosenberg. She has sent thank you notes to donors of raffle prizes, and requests more donations.

Ann confirmed a change of date for the next meeting from Nov. 8 to **Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day)**. It will start at 6pm at the Jones Library.

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There was a brief discussion of “dependency” as it will be interpreted for evaluating grants. We do not want to be the sole source of income. We do not want to see that there has been no other effort to find funding for projects. Individuals and groups can be awarded year after year – the content of the project changes each year.

Ann, Sandra, Katya and Ruth reported on communication they had between applicants where questions had come up at the previous meeting. Information was briefly discussed, but we will not re-evaluate any provisional awards until we complete all 61 applications and go around again.

Discussion of next applications.

#26 Tell your Sister Story requests \$1,750.

Accept provisionally: \$150 To be discussed again. Not clear what the project is; why just sisters (not brothers)

#27 Piti Theatre Company requests \$400 for Time Flood.

Approve: \$300

#28 Steven Henderson requests \$350 for Jerry Atric – The Older I get.

Approve \$100

#29 Laurie Kincaid requests \$1,000.

Deny: G. No confirmed venue, no dates, e. We would rather fund more locally

#30 Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra requests \$500.

Approve \$500

#31 Ed Cope requests \$525.

\$100 on condition that he gives two performances.

#32 The Dance Generators request \$500.

Approve \$300

#33 Katya Ites, Kids’ Bilingual Play requests \$700.

Tabled until November 11 (Until after Katya has attended Select Board meeting November 8.)

#34 John Root requests \$400

Denied: 4. Dependency. & g. no confirmed venue.

#35 Hampshire Shakespeare – Tempest requests \$1,200

Tabled. Ann will phone contacts – are they requesting reimbursement for projects already performed?

#36 Hampshire Shakespeare – Hamlet, requests \$1,200

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Tabled. Ann will phone contacts – are they requesting reimbursement for projects already performed?

Both are asking for the plays they did already – Ann will check with Boston – and will call them.

#37 Jones Library for Children’s Music Series requests \$300.

Approve: \$300

#38 JCA historical fashion show and exhibit requests \$2,495.

Approve \$300

#39 Emily Denison requests \$500

Tabled. Ann to ask Boston – can we fund for travel? A student project?

#40 Richard Clark, “Atticus,” requests \$350.

Approve \$100

#41 Old Deerfield Productions requests \$500

Approve tentatively: \$500 – will cut if we need

Also – Ann will ask for her list of other LCC’s

#42 Eshu Bumpus storytelling Artist-in-Residency requests \$500.

Approve \$500

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg