

Amherst Cultural Council
ACCEPTED Minutes
November 11, 2010
Large Meeting Room, Jones Library

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

Ann distributed the agenda.

Katya has previewed Dance Generators' CD and requested someone else also review it for objectivity. Ruth offered.

Ruth distributed copies of the Draft minutes. Minutes were approved with a minor spelling correction (#42 – Bumpus w/ m).

Ann gave us a brief report on Tuesday's MCC event in honor of Stan Rosenberg. Donna spoke on behalf of our Cultural Council. Ann described the newly remodeled room in the Yiddish Book Center and reported on interesting ideas that were brought up by Springfield and Southwick representatives concerning their system of distributing the work load and scheduling their decision-making process (Springfield) and the level of LCC sponsorship (Southwick). There was also discussion of raising the visibility of local LCC's.

We learned Springfield pays for an administrator. We discussed whether Amherst would want to use administrative funds, possibly taking away from grant monies to hire an administrator. We want to investigate the possibility for a student to do work study with supervision. Job description: organizing the information packets for Council members and archiving at the end of the process. It would be a short-term project.

Sondra Radosh noted all ACC files are in a cabinet in the Jones Library in the (secured) Crafts Room. There are at least 10 years of records saved, with the exception of two recent years (FY2008, FY2009). It is possible those records can be found among other material at the Jones', or be supplied from Council members of those years.

Ann reported the Conflict of Interest forms regarding Katya's grant application were signed by all members and filed at Town Hall.

The Gold Star nomination for Amherst Ballet is on track for submission on time (November 12).

Old Business: jubilat

Katya reported on questions she had discussed with Jubilat (2011-14 and 2010-17). There are problems with their request for reimbursement for FY2010, and that may influence our decisions for FY2011. Jubilat was reimbursed for some expenses last May. When they learned there was more money available, they submitted a new receipt. However, Katya reported the receipt was for items (books) that had not been a line item in the budget the Council reviewed. Jubilat did not provide forms or details, just receipts. Katya had to research the details through the bookstore where the items were purchased. As was explained by Zach Savich and Ben Kopel in response to a request from the ACC, the books were to promote the readings partially funded by the ACC, but Katya found that the three authors, whose books (the total of three) were purchased in May 2010, had participated in the readings' events before May (in Fall 2009, Feb 2010, and April 2010), and thus these books couldn't really have been "used to help promote the readings".

The Council has decided not to reimburse from the A2010-17 grant (Fall-09 - Spring-10) for the second receipt that was submitted October 14, 2010 for 4 books purchased in September, because

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there was no reimbursement form provided, and the books are by poets not covered by the 2010-17 grant, but those invited to fall-2010 workshops and covered by a new jubilat/jones readings project submitted for an ACC-2011 grant. The Council has decided to send the \$213 remaining from the A2010-17 award to the Unused Grants account, rather than use it, as the jubilat organizers have requested, to cover a \$200 stipend of a "surplus" poet who participated in the reading workshop October 17 (and has been included in the 2011 application). The Council's view at this time is that Jubilat was not acting with knowing wrongful intent; rather they may have done sloppy bookkeeping, and therefore haven't submitted the correct paperwork and have gone beyond the parameters of the grant).

Katya will let Jubilat know their accounts are closed for FY2010.

Decision for FY2011 Tabled.

Treasurer's Report

Katya distributed a chart showing the provisional amount grant awards for application # 1-42. 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. We have "cut" \$19,720 (\$13,850+5,870) between grant applications #1-42, and have 19 more applications to process, needing to cut \$15,474 (\$35,194-19,720) more.

Discussion of next applications.

#43 Arena Civic Theater presenting *Cabaret* requests \$600.

Approve \$600 if we have enough money. If not, we have the possibility of either reducing someone else, or drawing more \$\$ from administrative funds.

#44 Roger Tincknell performance "Across the Americas: Folk Music" requests \$400.

Denied. #4 dependency and repetitive.

#45 Kate Carney performance "Paul Revere" history presentation requests \$390.

Denied. #4 dependency and e; prefer more local.

Note: To suggest to Nancy Pagano for Bangs Senior Center to submit all programs together and ask for grant money for the programming, or to request general funding for performance that Nancy can allocate herself.

At the next meeting, the Council will review all Bangs Senior Center applications together before considering all other applications (i.e., #28, 34, 40, 44, 45, 55).

#46 Mohawk Trail Concerts requests \$1,000.

Approve \$500, and will award more if funds are available.

#47 Rondae Drafts presenting the History of Hip Hop requests \$300.

Approve \$100.

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It was noted that Rondae is not local, and there is no follow up for this project. There was a suggestion to publically encourage applications for middle school children, as this population is not represented in the applications very well.

#48 Picture Book Theatre Productions requests \$1,400.
Approve \$700.

#49 Sue Katz Shifting, fiber arts. Requests \$1,000.
Approve \$500

#50 Tim Eriksen Early American Shape-Note Singing requests \$960.
Approve \$500 and to be revisited.

#51 Amherst Writers & Artists request \$3,500
Denied. B The planning for your project was not specific or incomplete.

#52 Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra & Chorus requests \$500 to fund Amherst Ballet's inclusion in a program.
Approve \$250.

#53 Amherst Area Publications "Harvesting History" requests \$2,000.
Approve \$200 and to be revisited.

#54 Music in Deerfield requests \$750.
Approve \$500.

#55 Moonlight and Morning Start requests \$275.
Tabled to discuss with group of Bangs.

#56 Amherst Regional Middle School requests for Shakespeare & Company \$1,500.
Approve \$1,000.

#57 Amherst Public Arts Commission "Blues Around the World" requests \$1,000.
Denied. B. The planning for your project was not specific or incomplete.

#58 UMass Amherst Department of music & Dance New Music Festival requests \$1,500.
Approve \$500 with a note to revisit.

#59 Amherst Beaver Project requests \$700.
Approve \$300.

#60 Hampshire Young People's Chorus requests \$325.
Approve \$325.

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#61 New Geology "Core Boring" Display requests \$250.
Denied. g. No confirmed venue.

Ann reported there were some other applications that were so incomplete she has not distributed them to us, but will pass the financial information to Katya, and will present them next week for our review.

As we have finished going through the 61 applications (with some decisions tabled), the next meeting will focus on the Bangs applications, Katya's, Hampshire Shakespeare, Jubilat, and any others we have tabled.

Reminder: Next meeting, Monday, November 15, is at the Bangs Senior Center in the Garrabrants Room (upper floor), near the Senior Center offices.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg