

GREAT BARRINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

Thursday, July 21, 2022

1. Call to order - Patrick called the meeting to order at 6:04pm with a roll call vote: Patrick Barrett aye, Elissa Haskins-Vaughn aye, Stacy Ostrow, aye, Ellen Shanahan aye, Sherry Steiner aye, Allison Zivin aye.
2. Approve minutes from last meetings (discussion/vote)
Elissa made a motion to approve the June 23, 2022 minutes, Ellen seconded. Patrick asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0.
3. New Business
 - a. Ellen stated she had received MCC guidelines/timeline for grantees. Other members had not received the email - Ellen forwarded to all. The following deadlines were shared:
 - August 31, 2022: Deadline to update Local Guidelines and Priorities
 - September 1, 2022: LCC online application opens
 - October 17, 2022: LCC Application Deadline
 - October 17, 2022: Deadline to complete first and second section of Financial Report
 - January 17, 2023: Deadline to complete Annual Report
 - b. Mission statement and grant criteria
 - i. Ellen read the posted GBCC mission statement:
The Great Barrington Cultural Council awards grants to organizations and individuals for presentation of quality programs in the humanities, sciences, and the arts. It gives highest, but not exclusive, priority, to the interests of residents of Great Barrington and Housatonic at local venues. The Council is pleased to give funding to new programs that fit within the above criteria and that of the Mass Cultural Council, to the extent that the State allocation allows.
 - ii. Allison asked about the grant criteria and where it is available to grantees. Patrick stated the disability/accessibility requirement is required by MCC, but the criteria is not published as the intention is to keep it broad so not to be overly restrictive.
 - iii. It was agreed the mission statement to be published and grant criteria used for review/decision-making for the Council would be discussed at the next meeting.
 - c. Survey
 - i. The survey questions and outreach for better participation was discussed.
 - ii. Allison agreed to again take the lead on survey updates and outreach.
 - iii. Allison suggested in person survey distribution at the Co-op – she and Sherry offered to schedule for a weekday afternoon.
 - iv. The Council agreed the survey questions about Council priorities were good as is, but to limit personal questions to age range and GB residence.
 - v. The limitations of the free version of Survey Monkey were discussed and Elissa stated she would check if the Town has an account we could use and if we could use the Town's copy machine for survey hardcopies.
 - vi. The Council agreed to review the revised survey and reply to Allison with any feedback.
 - d. It was confirmed that Patrick had given Sherry access to the GBCC Facebook page and she would post the press release and survey. They should also be shared with the GB Community and Housatonic Neighbors groups.

4. Old Business

- a. Grant status – Patrick stated there was one more packet of paperwork in the Town Hall mailbox. Allison and Patrick agreed to connect to discuss the process.
- b. Fundraising FY23 – Elissa stated she checked with Town Hall regarding a potential email distribution list for an appeal to GB residents, but email addresses are not collected. She noted the Town could send a press release from the Town Manager's Office, but the Council agreed it would not be terribly beneficial for fundraising purposes.

5. Citizen's Speak

6. Set next meeting date – The Council agreed to meet next on August 11.

7. Adjourn Meeting - Ellen made a motion to adjourn; Allison seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Secretary