

GREAT BARRINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

Thursday, December 1, 2022

1. Call to order – Patrick called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Ellen Shanahan made a motion to open the meeting; Sherry Steiner seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick Barrett aye, Elissa Haskins-Vaughan aye, Stacy Ostrow, aye, Ellen Shanahan aye, Sherry Steiner aye, Allison Zivin aye.

2. Approve minutes from last meetings (discussion/vote)

Stacy made a motion to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked if any discussion – Elissa stated she had not attended the meeting so would abstain. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa abstain, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 5-0.

Ellen made a motion to approve the November 21, 2022 minutes; Sherry 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.

It was agreed that the minutes would not be submitted to the Town until grantees are notified.

3. Old Business

a. FY22 Grant status

Patrick reported two more packets were sent to Town Hall.

b. Fundraising FY23

Sherry stated she has not gotten response from the cannabis shops other than to confirm they had received the requests.

c. Grant review

i. Patrick asked if there are any denials to be revisited – if not, they can be voted on tonight. The Council discussed timing for final decision-making/MCC reporting. In addition, the Council discussed the scoring of applications and how that information should be used. It was agreed that is considered as applications are discussed – but the Council's discussion/input helps to clarify/deepen understanding of the projects and has more weight than the score which is only a guide. It was clarified the scoring is not mandated by the state, it is just a tool created by the GBCC based on its mission.

ii. Patrick noted all applications were discussed except Berkshire South. Ellen stated the program has good reach and offers music education which is lacking in schools. The Council agreed to tentatively approve the application.

iii. The following applications were discussed and voted on –

Ellen made a motion to deny the Aston Magna application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Ellen made a motion to deny the Austin Riggs application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for any discussion – it was noted the project would go forward without GBCC funding and funds were being used for promotion. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0.

Allison made a motion to deny the Berkshire Bach application; Elissa seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Allison made a motion to deny the Berkshire Children's Chorus application; Elissa seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Ellen made a motion to deny the Berkshire Theater Group application; Elissa seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Stacy made a motion to deny the BODYSONNET application; Ellen seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Elissa made a motion to deny The Garage with Steve Butler application; Allison seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Ellen made a motion to deny the Unwanted-Liesl Carlson application; Stacy seconded. Patrick asked for any discussion – the Council discussed the application was vague re: timing, venue, activities. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0.

Stacy made a motion to deny the Dewey Memorial Hall-Show & Tell application; Ellen seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Allison made a motion to deny the Dewey Memorial Hall-Use Your Words application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Elissa made a motion to deny the Hilltown Families application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Allison made a motion to deny the Maralyn Morales-Always Remember application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Stacy made a motion to deny the New England Puppet Arts application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Ellen made a motion to deny the Olga Dunn Dance Company application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for any discussion – it was noted there is limited audience. high cost to attend and other funding is available for this project. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0.

Elissa made a motion to deny the Pittsfield Shakespeare application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for any discussion – it was noted this is a great program – it is just located in Pittsfield and an example of difficult choices that have to be made. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 6-0.

Elissa made a motion to deny the John Porcino-To Life application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Elissa made a motion to deny the Raianne Richards-Community Concert application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Allison made a motion to deny the Sculpture Now application; Ellen seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Allison made a motion to deny the Shakespeare & Company application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Elissa made a motion to deny the Artist Book Foundation application; Ellen seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Stacy made a motion to deny the Tom Truss-ReWritten application; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

Ellen made a motion to deny the Nick Zanino-100 Years of Boston Comedy application; Elissa seconded. Patrick asked for 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.

- iv. The Committee completed all denials – it was noted MCC provides a form letter for denials and the Committee agreed to review last year's denial email and to potentially use that text. It was agreed not to craft individual, detailed denials notes.
- v. The Committee agreed to discuss approvals next meeting.

4. New Business

- a. Patrick stated he would reach out to Mark Pruhenski regarding approval of the new GBCC member.

5. Citizen's Speak – No citizens asked to speak

6. Set next meeting date – The next meeting is scheduled for December 8 at 6:00pm.

7. Adjourn Meeting – Allison made a motion to adjourn; Ellen seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Elissa aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Secretary