

Michael D. Andelman
Susan Pettee
Lauren Clark
Catherine Hancock
Ellen Shanahan
Rose Tannenbaum
Patrick Barrett
Tate Coleman
Amy E. Taylor



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Minutes

Wednesday, November 13 at 5pm
Mason Library
231 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

*Call to Order 5:04pm

*Present:

Members

Michael Andelman
Susan Pettee
Ellen Shanahan
Patrick Barrett
Tate Coleman
Catherine Hancock

Non Members:

Ed Abrahms
Ettore Toppi

*Susan moved to approve October 24th Minutes. Ellen seconds. All in favor, minutes approved.

*Grant review: Michael states that decisions need to be made by December 1st- will double check deadline.

*Distribution of grant Materials by Susan.

*Discussion of Council's priorities for awarding grants:

Proximity
Educational
Serving Children
Density
Cultural
Funds going to program/ low administrative costs
Accessibility to public- free to attend

*Rating system:

Rated on a 0-5 scale, 5 being the highest
Yes 4-5
Maybe 2-4

No 0-2

- *Each present member is given a grant application to evaluate
- *Michael suggested that when we write letters that decline grants, we are specific with our feedback so that applicants can submit projects that are more likely to be funded next year. Patrick and Susan voiced agreement.
- *Michael presents Art that Speaks grant application
 - Art installation at Fuel
 - High funding ask and costs
 - Council voted 3 yes 3 maybe
 - Moved to maybe pile
- *Kids after school to sculpture grant application
 - Susan voiced concern that it is not local
 - Tate agreed
 - Council voted to put in the NO pile
- *Berkshire South Grant Application
 - Funding for Ukulele and Singing
 - It is local
 - Susan noted these are very popular programs
 - Council voted to move this to the maybe pile
- *Stockbridge Symphonies in Pittsfield
 - Catherine noted the missing letter of support
 - Michael pointed out that Catherine knows about the LOS because she has also applied for a grant, she would have to recuse herself from voting on her own application
- *Discussion commenced about applications with missing Letters of Support
 - Catherine considers these applications disqualified due to their incomplete status
 - Patrick suggests going through all paper applications to pull out incomplete applications
 - Ellen suggests checking the applications online to determine which applications are missing LOS's to make sure paper applications are accurate
 - Tate questions how rigid we have to be about the missing LOS's
 - Catherine suggests that the GBCC should treat incomplete applications as ineligible for grant awards.
 - Upon going through applications it becomes apparent that most are missing LOS's.
 - Due to the high number of incomplete applications, Catherine suggests contacting Justina at the MCC to ask how the GBCC should proceed, if applicants could be approached to provide LOS's, if these applications should be disqualified, and if not if the GBC could given an extension for grant decisions.
 - Michael suggests favoring applications with LOS.
 - Ellen notes that many LOS's are not really letters of support for the project.
 - Catherine notes that in the grant application it is not difficult to find that the supplemental material required is a letter of support from a project if applicant reads the instructions. However, the description of the letter is quite vague.
 - Patrick suggests we look into how to be more clear next year.
 - Susan checks the application and determines that LOS is required.
 - Council moves to hold matter until Catherine can talk to the MCC.
 - Council decided to process to review applications on a tentative basis.

- *Sam from the library comes in to note that we are pressed for time
- *Continued review of applications:
- *Art and recovery for youth
 - Lack of detail in application
- *Community health programs
 - Covers tuition for 5 families
 - Ellen supported application but concern about number of people served.
 - Michale suggested asking for more clarification from applicant.
 - Council moved to place application in maybe pile
- *Movement Arts Exchange
 - Collaboration with Shakespeare and Co
 - Susan advocates for this project
- *Old tone
 - Michael expressed concern that they were located in NYC and the proposed venue in Great Barrington did not provide an exact date
- *Monument Girls Write On
 - Girls reading poetry in West Stockbridge
 - Site of reading not local but work on poetry takes place locally
 - Ellen and Catherine express support
- *Renaissance Lute Songs
 - Catherine recused from voting
 - Michael asked whether Catherine should describe project
 - Tate suggested she should not
 - Project is local and free and for kids. Susan expresses support
- *WEB Du Bois Education Series
 - Unanimous support from council
- *Sam comes in to say we are out of time
- *Next meeting to be held 11/28/18 at 6pm
- *Catherine moves to adjourn at 6:53pm. Ellen Seconds. All in Favor.

Signed:
Catherine Hancock
11.23.18