



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Cultural Council Minutes 04-17-2003

Arlington Arts Council

Minutes of April 17, 2003

Robbins Library Community Room

Present: Suzanne McLeod, Mary Babic, Shari Craig, Amy Peters, Leland Stein (prospective member); Elinore Kagan via telephone

Absent: Elinore Kagan, Diane Connor, Cheryl Hemenway, Michele Meagher, David Silverman

e Shari Craig called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Items were discussed first; the voting took place after a call was made to Elinore Kagan to make a quorum.

Item One: Minutes from March

Shari Craig moved that the minutes be approved, Amy Peters seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Item Two: Requests for Payment

Two grant recipients called to inquire about the requests for payment they submitted in January: The Arlington Children's Theater and David Moore. In both cases, Elinore has submitted their paperwork to Town Hall and checks are being processed.

2003-01 Request for final payment to Dallin PTO for Sol y Canto; tabled due to incomplete paperwork.

2002-18 Request for final payment to Hardy PTO for Dance Caliente, \$400. Suzanne McLeod moved that the request be granted; Mary Babic seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2003-09 Request for final payment to Jill Dreeben of \$300. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2002-02 Request for extension from Rose Austin for nature journals, through 4/29. Shari Craig moved that the request for extension be granted; Amy Peters seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Request for reimbursement for photo costs from Town Day Art at Your Feet Event, by Mary Babic, \$64.66. Reimbursement form needed. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously

Item Three: Community Outreach Meeting

Members have discussed scheduling an event to coincide with the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Arts in Your Community Week for 2004. This item was tabled at this meeting; however, there was discussion of the "Anyone

Can Day" event. Leland Stein mentioned that it might be possible to hold the event at the Arlington Regent Theater.

The idea of the event would be to allow people to try new things in an unthreatening environment.

"Experts" will give participants an opportunity to try things like painting, drawing, making music, etc. Suggestions included asking our grant recipients to act as presenters, and applying for funding with a council generated grant to the MCC.

Item Four: Advocate Column

The Arts Council has the opportunity to have a regular column in the Arlington Advocate. The frequency and terms are still in discussion. Ideas were proposed, including a survey of past recipients, and exploration of what it meant to receive a grant; a survey of other arts organizations in the town. In upcoming meetings we will set up a schedule of column topics and establish a process for editing and submitting them.

David Silverman has completed the first piece, which is a history of the actions and goals of the Council.

Item Five: Name Change

The Council discussed the possibility of changing the name of the body, and the implications therein. What would it mean to be a commission instead of a council? To be "cultural" rather than "arts"? What are the names of other similar bodies in town, and how does it affect their status?

Members concluded that the preferred name would be Arlington Cultural Commission. Shari Craig moved to propose the name change to the Town Selectmen; Amy Peters Seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Shari Craig will write the letter.

Item Six: Secretary

Mary Babic has volunteered to serve as Secretary of the Council. Shari Craig moved to approve her appointment; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Item Seven: Gideon Cohen Award

The awards go to high school students of artistic promise. Shari Craig moved to grant two awards of \$400 each. Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Shari Craig will contact the appropriate teachers at the high school.

Item Eight: Report from Massachusetts Local Cultural Council Meeting

Shari Craig, Mary Babic, Suzanne McLeod attended the all-day conference in Worcester in April. They presented some of the salient points from the meeting, including the highlight on strengthening and nurturing relationships with local officials and bodies.

Members agreed to try meet with one of Arlington's Selectmen to discuss the role of the Council, our desired constituencies, and the economic benefits of a lively arts scene.

Other Business

Shari Craig reported that she had spoken on behalf of the Council for a local cable show, "Inside Arlington." The spot should be shown in April.

Shari Craig adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Babic

