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Cultural Council Minutes 06-12-2003

Arlington Arts/Cultural (!) Council

Minutes of June 12, 2003

Jefferson Cutter House

Present: Elinore Kagan, Michele Meagher, Suzanne McLeod, Mary Babic, Shari Craig, Amy Peters; David Silverman (former member); Leland Stein, Betsy Campbell, Jean Yoder (prospective members)

Absent: Diane Connor, Cheryl Hemenway, Karen Dillon (prospective member)

Shari Craig called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Introductions were made around the table; two new prospective members attending.

Michele Meagher discussed status of Arlington Arts Calendar, circulated a draft.

Item One: Minutes from May

Shari Craig moved that the minutes be approved, Suzanne McLeod seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Item: Discussion with Selectperson Kathleen Kathleen Kiely-Dias

The Council had attended a meeting of the Arlington Board of Selectmen, and requested that a representative be set to one of the Council's meetings to participate in an exchange of information. Ms. Kiely-Dias helped to move forward the dialogue between the Council and the town.

Shari Craig gave a quick overview of the Council's situation. The amount available for grants from the state for the year 2003 was 62% less than the amount from the year before (roughly \$10,000); for 2004, it is expected to be level funding.

The Council wanted feedback as to how it could be more active in town, gain a higher profile, get involved in town events. Could it play a more formal role as a consultant, or a voice for arts/cultural concerns? For example, when the Center is redeveloped as was the Heights, could the Council play an advisory role?

Ms. Kiely-Dias wanted to know how the Council differs from the Arlington Center for the Arts; we explained that the two bodies are entirely separate, although the Council funds a lot of activities at the ACA. She also wanted to know how much of our funding is granted to the schools/PTOs. Suzanne McLeod checked, and noted that in 2001 roughly 45% of the money went to projects in the schools.

Also discussed was a History Trail project; a project in retail/office windows for artists to display work as in Somerville and Medford; and the Council's plans for Anyone Can Day in April 2004. It may be possible for the event to be held at Town Hall, though there is still some concern about wear and tear on the new floor.

Ms. Kiely-Dias will ask for the Board's endorsement of the Day.

Item Two: Requests for Payment

2003-07 Request for final payment of \$960 to Elsa Wilkens for her photographs from the Arlington High School

Madrigal Singers' trip to Italy. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2003-08 Request for payment to David Coffin for his presentation to elementary schools. Discussion ensued about the paperwork; they've requested separate checks to separate schools, which is too much for the Council to do. Shari Craig will contact townwide PTO about this issue. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

A brief discussion ensued about how difficult it is for the Council to process all the paperwork required by the state and the town; and to request funding. A motion was proposed to request a meeting with the town to establish and maintain certain guidelines.

2002-18 Request for final payment to Dance Caliente for school project. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Amy Peters seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Item Three: Outstanding Grants from 2002

2002-01 Pat Tassone reported that he's not going to use the final \$1000 of the grant for the modern dance performance. He would like to release the money to be used for another grant.

2002-03. Mary Babic requested an extension for her photography project on the Bike Path, until the end of September. Shari Craig moved that the request be granted; Suzanne McLeod seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2002-22 There's a question about whether the grant to the Arts Collaborative/Nancy Kraskow was paid or not.

Elinore Kagan, the Treasurer, reported that one of the recipients of the Gideon Cohen Award from last year has not cashed his check for \$400. The Council cannot stop payment or cancel the check until the Town sends a certified letter to notify the recipient of unclaimed funds. After 30 days, the Council will then be able to stop payment and release the funds for another use.

Elinore Kagan also reported that the Town won't write a check to anyone for any reason unless a tax payer ID number is supplied.

Item Four: Name Change

Shari Craig submitted a letter to the Selectmen outlining our reasons for requesting a change to Arlington Cultural Council, and attended a meeting to make it official. The Board approved the move.

Suzanne McLeod moved that the Council amend the bylaws to change the name to the Arlington Cultural Council; Michele Meagher seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

We will find a copy of the bylaws and amend it; inform the town and state; and create a new letterhead.

Item Five: Advocate Articles

The first Advocate article appeared in the new Arts quarterly section on June 5; Dave Silverman wrote the first article, about the Arts Council. The next article is due mid-August; Council members agreed to think of article ideas/themes, and bring one to the next meeting in July.

Item Six: Town Day

There seems to be interest in the sidewalk chalk art event again; perhaps on the wall, or on the street. Amy is going to request that our spot be Lamsom Way again. Leland proposed that Dan Foley from the Regent Theater might do a preview of juggling skills for Anyone Can Day in the spring. Amy is heading the Town Day Committee; the day is scheduled for September 12 (13).

Item Seven: New Members

Prospective new members Leland Stein and Karen Dillon have attended previous meetings and introduced themselves. The Council reviewed their resumes and took a vote.

Suzanne McLeod moved that Leland Stein and Karen Dillon be approved as new members of the Arlington Cultural Council;grid0 Michele Meagher seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Item Eight: Other Business

New prospective members asked some questions and offered some feedback.

Need for a Council logo. Mary pursuing this.

Observed that Somerville Arts Council is having a fundraising benefit concert at Johnny D's, and discussion about what kind of fundraising our council can do. Leland may pursue options on this, at the Regent Theater.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Babic