



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 05/13/2013

Arlington Cultural Council Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2013

Arlington Senior Center, 2nd Floor, 7:30 pm

Present: Eliza Burden, Joe Burns, Kurt Fusaris, Maggie Husak, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Margaret Moore, Scott Samenfeld, Martha Sheehan, and Wendy Glaas

Pat Myers, prospective member

Absent: Margaret (Margo) Barrett, Karin Blum, Becky Holmes-Farley

At 7:39 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

ITEM 1 Approval of April Minutes

The April Minutes were reviewed and APPROVED unanimously.

ITEM 2 RFPs

- 2013-17 A-town Jazz Fest has submitted RFP
- 2013-01 Romancing the Square has submitted RFP. They also included hard copies of all of the poems from the festival. Workshop attendance was low due to the snow and late reschedule of events.

ITEM 3 Report on Outstanding Grants/Liaison check-in

- 2012-06 EcoFest Rain Garden Signage New garden/signage on track to be finished by August 31 deadline (new garden located at Hardy School)
- 2013-07 True Story Theater May 15 event postponed to July 1 due to logistical problems. Same time, same place, Stephanie will update ACC FB page.
- 2013-22 Arlington Musicians Alice and Kicking - Concert was held May 11, both Karin and Maggie attended. Audience of about 25 kids and adults for daytime performance. Quality of the performances was good but marketing and publicity did not get desired results. Usual channels (parents list, Patch, Advocate, etc.) do not seem to be enough, especially for a one-off event.
- 2013-09 Waldo Park Tree Sculpture Project - Held a live metal pouring on May 12 (raindate). Stephanie estimated that 20-30 different households attended. Another event will be held May 18.
- 2013-12 - NEGASS - will perform their program on June 5 at Bishop School
- 2013-27 - Arlington Alive Block Party will be held July 13 and is already being publicized. See the website: <http://www.arlingtonalivema.org>.

ITEM 4 Introductions/Personnel

Prospective member Pat Myers introduced herself to the Council. She has had a professional career in arts and education and served a 6-year term on the Acton-Boxboro Cultural Council. Margaret Moore will send her information to make an official application to the Council.

Martha announced that she will need to step down from the Council due to professional obligations. She will be missed and her service as treasurer has been greatly appreciated.

ITEM 5 Arlington Cultural Commission

Stephanie gave brief overview of the role of the Commission, which was approved by Town Meeting in 1998 but appointed its first members this year. The Commission's role is to form a long-term, cultural plan for the town, make recommendations about how to establish Arlington as a cultural center, and to think about how to use public space for performance/art. There is no redundancy between the Council and the Commission, but we need to work together to clarify roles and communicate those to the public (hopefully the Commission will change its name). Commission meets first Thursday of the month 7:30pm, main floor Senior Center. There is currently one opening on the 7-person commission. Interested parties can send a letter to the Town Manager.

ITEM 6 Bus Depot Mural

Stephanie has drafted a letter and will revise it to fit the Advocate's 400 word limit. Council unanimously approved signing the letter from the ACC.

The Council acknowledged that 2 tasks need to occur to bring closure to this issue:

- Memorialize the mural in some way
- Develop town guidelines for decommissioning public art in a respectful way

The Arlington Cultural Commission and Arlington Public Art may be the right committee to work on this issue. The Council will look for procedures and plans for decommissioning public art in future proposals where relevant.

ITEM 6 Grant Cycle Business

Grant cycle meetings dates have been tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Grant workshop - September 25, 7-9pm. Margaret will draft a brief presentation; Pat can contribute to this with materials from Acton Boxboro
- Grant presentations - November 6 & 7, 7:00pm
- Grant deliberations - November 17

We need to review guidelines for next year's grant cycle.

ITEM 7 Grantee Reception

- Outstanding expenses/reimbursements - Maggie submitted receipts. Margaret will distribute a budget template for everyone to fill in their numbers so that we can track food expenses.
- Arlington Friends of the Drama has offered to host event for next year. Not sure the space is ideal, we will need to visit and decide.
- We did not make it into the Advocate this year; next year we should be sure to have the grantees pose for an official photo that we can send, there were too many people on stage for a clear photo of grantees.
- Eliza reported that citations that were incorrect will be revised
- Joe volunteered to maintain the electronic photo album for the Council (currently on Picasa). Margaret will send him 2013 Reception photos.

ITEM 8 Town Day Planning

- Eliza suggested that if we don't have a reason to use the large space on Lamson Way we should let it go. Scott suggested that the table should be focused on our main purpose, which is grantmaking. Karin will draft a letter to grantees asking if they want to participate in some way, but we need to make sure that the ask is framed as an invitation, not an obligation.

ITEM 9 Recruitment/Roles

Three people will cycle off or step down from the Council in the next few months: Martha, Stephanie, and Kurt. Becky and Karin both expressed willingness to step into the chair role back in January. Wendy has expressed interest in the Corresponding Secretary role. Maggie will consider the Treasurer's role but is not ready to commit. We need to get notices out for new members. Specifically the Council will look for artists, people with financial management skills, and graphic design/marketing/publicity expertise.

Upcoming Events

Monday, June 10, 4th Floor Conference Room, Robbins Library, 7:30pm, ACC Meeting

Monday, July 8, Community Room (Lower Level), Robbins Library, 7:30pm, ACC Meeting

Saturday, July 13, Broadway Plaza, 12-5pm, Regent Theatre, 6:30-9:30pm, Arlington Alive Summer Arts Block Party

September 21 - Town Day

Dates to Remember

September 1 - grant applications available

October 15 - grant application deadline