



Arlington Poet Laureate Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: over zoom

Interim Chair, Lidia Kenig-Scher called the meeting to order. In attendance were committee members Stewart Deck and Amy Hampe. Committee member Carol Band was absent. Guest Leonard Diggins was also in attendance.

Review and confirm Committee membership, including nominations

The Poet Laureate Committee bylaws were reviewed as they detail the make-up of the five-member committee. The status of current and potential future members was discussed. Ms. Kenig-Scher will take the lead in following up with Ms. Band, Town Manager Jim Feeney, and the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture about the next steps and report back.

Review Poet Laureate Jean Flanagan's report and confirm adjustments to the stipend and timeline for the second year of the term

Ms. Kenig-Scher relayed the stipend increase to \$1,500 as approved by the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) for the current Poet Laureate. While the current Poet Laureate was belatedly selected and began her term in January 2023, the term is intended to align with the Town and ACAC's fiscal year. Now in the second year, a third year will be voted on by this Committee in May 2024. If approved, the current term will end June 30, 2025. A new Poet Laureate would then be selected in time to begin their term July 1, 2025.

A review of the report from Poet Laureate Jean Flanagan was deferred to the next meeting, in anticipation that she can deliver the report to the committee.

Determine updates needed for the Poet Laureate Committee page on the Town's website

The group discussed updates needed on the website, including the Committee membership, removing outdated links, and adding information about the current Poet Laureate. Mr. Deck and Ms. Hampe will work on more detailed updates to be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

Schedule next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 pm.

New business, if any

No new business was raised.

The meeting was adjourned.