

Montague Cultural Council
August 7, 2018
Gill-Montague Senior Center
7-8:30PM

Meeting called by chairperson at 7:02 PM

Present: Kate, Rachel, Jen, Pam, John, Dan, Shannon and Cindi

Absent: Anne, Jan

Jen moved to approve the minutes from July 3 with one correction; Rachel's position will be changed from co-chair to vice-chair. Dan seconded. All approved.

Programming Reports:

Kate and Rachel reported that they both attended the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 4th. Some vendors and participants didn't show up due to intermittent inclement weather. This resulted in a smaller turnout than past years.

The Sugarloaf String Band completed the Cowboy era music event, and submitted a final report. They were unsure if they needed to pay back some of the money to MCC after the church gave them additional funds. They were assured that they owed nothing because the MCC grant was not enough to cover their entire project.

The Ukulele workshop at Carnegie library was successful

The opening reception for the Magic of Watercolor for Adults exhibit was on August 5. The art will be on view until August 30th.

Great Falls Books Through Bars will be showing the first in a series of documentary films on Friday August 10, from 6:30-9:30PM at the Brick house. This week they'll be showing the film "The Prison in 12 Landscapes". Discussion to follow

The Life, Times, and Music of Louis Armstrong is planned for September 9th.

On Saturday August 25th from 10AM to noon, Racial Justice Rising is holding a candidates forum on racism and racial justice. Meet the candidates for the 1st Franklin district to replace Stephen Kulik.

Jen reported on the MCC survey regarding the pilot program this year. She drafted some answers while sticking very close to what had been discussed in previous meetings, forwarded them to Anne, then sent them back. Jen hasn't received any feedback from MCC other than a quick thank you.

Organizing Final Reports: Since some reports come in as hard copies while others are delivered digitally, there was discussion on how to handle them regarding storage and the need for all of us to read and discuss them. Jen suggested creating a system where we could read the reports and discuss them at monthly meetings. Dan suggested that we store them in one place online to ensure that nothing gets lost. It was decided that Google drive would be the main repository of all the reports, and that the agenda would include a reminder to all to check the drive before our next meeting.

Moving forward, we agreed to store all of our documentation digitally to save trees; therefore all documents will now be stored on MCC's Google drive. If a report is received as a hard copy, it will need to be scanned. We also decided to limit the number of people checking the snail mail at the Town Hall.

Pam reported that RiverCulture intends to give the Cultural Council \$2000 this year, and that Jen reported that Suzanne had said RiverCulture did not intend to dictate how we should use those funds. We didn't make any decisions about how we'd use the additional funding from the Town.

Jen mentioned an inquiry from Dawn Marvin Ward of the Great Falls Coffeehouse, who wanted to know if our Council would be open to funding a program where donations were requested. Jen told her that we have done so in the past, and also funded ticketed events, but encouraged her to review our local priorities, noting that we believe in compensating artists for their work, and that we also appreciate when organizers figure out ways to remove barriers to access including financial barriers.

Publicity: Our grant application period begins Sept 1, with a deadline of October 15th, so we discussed the need to start advertising in the next couple of weeks. Print and online ads were discussed in addition to individual outreach that members can offer to groups that might benefit.

Payments to third parties: We talked about how to handle future payments in instances where neither the applicant nor the contact person would be the payee. We decided to ask for this clarification on everyone's letter of acceptance form.

Local Priorities. A handout with our local priorities was available to look over that included some potential changes. We discussed them in depth, and changes were carefully considered. Kate made a motion that we keep our priorities the same and edit our rejection letter to include only 2 checkboxes stating the reasons the application was rejected. We would then have the option to

add a sentence or two making suggestions, and/or offering encouragement to the applicant. Jen seconded. All approved.

Logo: Suzanne will change the Riverculture tagline to “Arts and Culture in Montague” to make it more inclusive. For the upcoming grant cycle we’ll be using this logo.

Actions:

Jen will be checking the mailbox at town hall as she is there often. Kate and Rachael will be back up should Jen be unable to. Jen will let Anne know about this decision.

Jen offered to spruce up the MCC space on the town website.

Shannon offered to make the flyers, postcards and even a Facebook ad, using last year’s design (which she also created) as a template. She’ll ask Anne if she can print it again this year. Everyone also agreed that she could send an email blast when she completed a flyer.

Kate will create a press release.

Pam offered to be the liaison between Lynne Rudie and the council while Lynne is creating our new logo.

The next council meeting will be on September 16th-2PM- 3:30PM. This meeting will be an info session for the public. We will advertise this event.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM