

Montague Cultural Council

November 3, 2018

Gill-Montague Senior Center

9AM-12PM

All members present: Jen, Rachel, Dan, Jan [arrived about 10 am], Pam, Kate, Anne [arrived about 10 am], John, Cindi, Shannon
Suzanne Lomanto from Riverculture was also present from 10-10:45.

1. Chair opened meeting at 9:10AM

2. September 16 meeting minutes were approved with the following changes:

a. In addition to which members who were present, also to include those who were absent,

b. To include the idea we discussed about distributing the survey at Town Meeting as possibly our main focus for this year's survey, and

c. Correct a misspelled word.

3. Reports on programs that have happened recently:

The Building Bridges mural project announced on Facebook that they were putting their project on hold until next Spring. Discussed asking them for a final report.

Mike Jackson did his talk at the Discovery Center and submitted his final report.

Talking Turkey is on the 17th.

Softball documentary is showing on the 23rd.

Rachel reported that she attended the Racial Justice Rising showing at the Brick House and it was really well done. The discussion was in English and in Spanish.

The money from Riverculture has been received.

4. Treasurer's report: There was not a formal Treasurer's report. The required (first two) components of the Annual Report to the MCC were submitted by the deadline.

We have a total of \$6578 to grant this year.

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5. Approve survey for public input and plan distribution.

Kate will edit the survey per our discussion and bring to the next meeting for further consideration.

Suzanne provided context for the applications that had asked RiverCulture for support.

Jen asked Suzanne if, as a member of the Shea Theater Board, she could help us understand the rationale behind the variance in rental rates applicants reported. Suzanne suggested that we ask the Shea Board, and the council directed Jen to follow up.

6. Review conflict of interest protocols:

Cindi filed an S-19 form because she submitted a proposal for a project this year. On 10/29, the Selectboard decided that she could participate in decision-making and evaluation related to the other proposals, but not her own. Jen proposed that we set Cindi's proposal aside to discuss at the end of the meeting after Cindi left, and the council approved this approach.

It was noted that other councilors may have less obvious conflicts of interest -- for example, while they may not benefit financially from a project,

they may know or have advised applicants, and they may feel those relationships could prevent them from being able to be objective. In those cases, one way for the councilors to proceed is to participate in discussion, but abstain from voting.

We discussed how we would handle applications for programs that were proposed for venues that are not fully accessible to the public and decided to ask the grantees to consider a change of venue, and/or to develop a plan for accomodating people who could not participate at that location.

We discussed how we would record votes and instructed Cindi to record the number of ayes, no, and abstentions, as well as the reasons for denial.

Jen volunteered to set up the denial letters in the montague lcc gmail account so that Cindi could review them and send them out.

7. Discuss which applications to deny or accept:

Below is the list of applications received, with detail provided for those we voted on:

- 1. Weekday Young People's Theatre Performance @ The Shea/Piti Theater**
- 2. Documentary and Discussion Evenings 2019/GF Books Behind Bars**
- 3. Duplicate application. Disregard.**
- 4. Good Music Makes Good Neighbors**
- 5. World Music Super Collider**
- 6. Free Pickling in the Park Series**

7. In Performance: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"/Amherst Ballet was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

8. A Dub Supreme was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

9. BIM BAM Music at Northfield Mountain/Community Children's Network

10. The Summer Spectacle - Subsidized Tickets/Double Edge Theater was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

11. Exploded View Turners Falls 2019

12. Bagnall's Turners Falls: Vol.I

13. Right Up My Alley

14. Choir Tuition Scholarship/Hampshire Young People's Chorus was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

15. Pax Sax Quartet concert was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

16. Upping the Ante: How to Secure more Funding as an Artist!/ Arts Extension Institute was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council voted 8 to deny and 2 to accept.

17. 2019 Production of "The Revolutionists"/Silverthorne Theater Voices Carry/ Voices from Inside was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

18. Voices Carry/voices from inside

19. Full Snow Moon Gathering and Wampum presentation and workshop with Elizabeth James-Perry/Nolumbeka Project

20. Lovelight Live Show

21. The Montague Wool Scarf Project was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council voted 8 to deny, and 1 to accept, 1 abstention.

22. Musica Franklin Community Nights

23. Mabel and Jerry - Obstacles to the Altar was tabled until next meeting

24. Antenna Cloud Farm concert series

25. Dissident Voices/DeCamera Singers was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council voted 9 to deny, and 1 to accept.

26. Valley Audio Hearth

27. Gender-Politics-Power: Helping local youth find a voice through an immersion into Macbeth by Shakespeare/Young Shakespeare Players

28. Yoga Program for Children

29. Weekly Suggested Events/Hilltown Families was denied for lack of enough public benefit. Cindi Oldham and Anne Harding abstained from voting on this project. The council's vote was otherwise unanimous.

30. The Amazing Beaver/Friends

31. Trees as Sentient Beings

32. Monthly Racial Justice Program Series/Racial Justice Rising was

33. Houdini

34. An Evening at the Opera/Blandford Historical Society

Makerspace Workshop was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

35. Makerspace Workshop

36. Free concert by Jeff Gavioli and his Bad News Jazz and Blues

Orchestra featuring vocalist Cindy Reed. was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council voted 8 to deny and 2 to accept.

37. Campaign Music of our Presidents was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council's vote was unanimous.

38. Children's Songs and Singing Games

39. Turners Falls Girls Softball documentary

40. Youth Music & Visual Arts Showcase/Northampton Community Music Ctr, the Brick House & Shea Theater

41. Art Series for Pre-teens and Teens/Montague Public Libraries
Collage for fun

42. Collage for Fun

43. Radical Interconnectedness Festival/Eggtooth Productions

44. Edible perennial gardening and landscaping was denied for lack of enough public benefit. The council voted 6 to deny, and 4 to accept.

Cindi left the meeting at 12:30pm so we could discuss her application.

8. Topics not anticipated within the 48 hours posting requirement.

Rachel requested that at a future meeting we discuss the idea of not allowing council members to apply for LCC grants while they are active members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Next meeting date: December 16, 2018, 1-4 pm at the G-M Senior Center