

Approved October 26, 2021

Hudson Cultural Council

Minutes

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

ID# 853 5431 1521

Members Present via Roll Call: Dorothy Bagley, Peter Fiske, Lindsay Kelkres, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Debbie Papa, Stephanie Simard, Donna Specian

Members Absent: Ellen Kisslinger, Cheryl Lombardo

Visitor: Justin Roshak, reporter from *The Community Advocate*.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Patricia Luoto, Co-Chair. Lindsay Kelkres was welcomed as the newest member of the council.

On a motion by Stephanie Simard, seconded by Debbie Papa, the members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 council meeting.

New Business:

Stephanie Simard led the discussion on the council's annual community input survey. What stood out in the analysis of the results is that there is a desire by the respondents to have more community-wide events such as concerts, festivals, art shows, etc. and to have more affordable events.

Although it was noted that the number of people taking the survey was less than the previous year, there is a plan to post more frequently on social media (which respondents listed as their prime source to hear about cultural activities) to promote the council's annual surveys. The council also decided to send future annual survey information out to the public via the school system. It is suspected that social restrictions caused by the Covid 19 pandemic may have played a role in the decline in responses.

The next order of business was to review and change the HCC's funding priorities based on the results of the 2021 community survey. After discussion on the current #2 Funding Priority - *Preference given to programs serving Hudson youth and to Hudson-based organizations, artist & interpretive scientist* a motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Donna Specian to change the wording to: ***Preference given to grants serving Hudson residents, and to programming by Hudson-based organizations and institutions. This could include but is not limited to the arts, nature, science and environmental education projects.*** The members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

Based on survey results, Doris Monteiro proposed a new funding priority. After discussion she made a motion, seconded by Donna Specian to read as follows: ***Preference given to community-wide events such as, but not limited to concerts, festivals, art shows, etc.*** The members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion. The council decided that this would become the new #3 funding priority, thus creating a reordering of the current funding priorities so that the old #3 would become #4, #4 becomes #5, #5 becomes #6, #6 becomes #7, and #7 becomes #8.

Stephanie Simard presented information about MCC's Direct Grant Program. Mass Cultural Council is encouraging LCCs to consider Direct Granting. The grantee would not be required to expend one's own funds up front before requesting a reimbursement as it has been done in the past. In order to accept the grant and receive payment, the grantee must complete a Grant Agreement and a W-9 and return them (preferably within two weeks) after grant notification. In addition, grantees will be required to fill out a final report on their project once the program is complete. This change would also require approval by the

Hudson Finance Department. The intent for Direct Grant transition is two-fold: 1) To enhance LCC programming opportunities by imposing less financial hardship on potential grantees 2) To simplify the payment process for municipalities and councils.

After a discussion of the pros and cons of direct grant versus the reimbursement process as well as a voicing of concerns regarding how the council would deal with a grant recipient who did not follow through with the paperwork regarding the LCC Program Grant Agreement and/or LCC Grantee Final Report, a motion was made by Stephanie Simard, seconded by Dorothy Bagley for the Hudson Cultural Council to adopt the direct grant program for the FY22 grant cycle. Three members (Peter Fiske, Doris Monteiro, Donna Specian) voted not to adopt direct grants. The motion passed with five members (Dorothy Bagley, Lindsey Kelkres, Patricia Luoto, Debbie Papa, Stephanie Simard) voting to adopt the direct grant process.

Due to the fact the HCC will be going to direct grants, the council needed to go back and revise the wording in Funding Priority #8 (c) which read as: *the applicant collected HCC reimbursement in a timely manner*. Stephanie Simard made a motion, seconded by Debbie Papa to replace the above with: ***the applicant completed the required paperwork in order to access their grant funds in a timely manner***. The members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

Stephanie Simard will publicize the upcoming direct grant cycle information to include start and due dates on social media and Doris Monteiro will include this information in a press release to local newspapers. She will also send out a press release soliciting new members to the council.

The council received a request from Tom Desmond of the Hudson Cultural Alliance regarding Grant #41818 *Hudson Armory Fundraiser Project* to allow for the funds originally intended to help the Alliance hire a part-time fundraiser to be used for other purposes to include grant writing and/or development and purchase of additional marketing and publicity materials. Patricia Luoto abstained from the discussion and turned the meeting over to Co-Chair Donna Specian in order to avoid any conflict of interest since she is affiliated with the Hudson Cultural Alliance. A motion was made by Peter Fiske and seconded by Stephanie Simard to allow the requested change regarding the use of grant funds. The members voted 7-0 (with Patricia Luoto abstaining) by roll call to approve the motion. As secretary Doris Monteiro will send a letter to Tom Desmond notifying the Hudson Cultural Alliance of the approval.

Old Business:

Due to the late hour, items listed in this section on the agenda were tabled and will be taken up at a future council meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Debbie Papa. The council voted 8 to 0 via a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 7:00 PM – To review and modify paperwork associated with the direct grant process

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021 at 7:00 PM – To review submitted grants and to vote on distribution of FY22 funds; election of new officers

Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 at 7:00 PM – To follow up on any grant reconsideration requests and to prepare for the HCC annual report

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Monteiro, Secretary