

Approved April 25, 2023

Hudson Cultural Council Minutes

Meeting Date: March 21, 2023

Location: Zoom Meeting
ID# 852 9041 9130

Members Present via Roll Call: Lawrence Fine, Peter Fiske, Lindsay Kelkres, Ellen Kisslinger, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Debbie Papa, Donna Specian

Members Absent: Cheryl Lombardo

Others Present: Elissa Surabian

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Donna Specian, Chair. She welcomed Elissa as a guest to the meeting and explained the purpose of the Hudson Cultural Council.

On a motion by Peter Fiske and seconded by Debbie Papa, the members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2022 council meeting.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report - Debbie Papa announced that the council has received most of the Grant Agreement Forms from the FY23 grantees. She indicated that there were four grantees that had not sent in their paperwork: Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce, Hudson Division of Recreation, Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, and Women of Note. Debbie will reach out to these organizations to remind them of the process.

To date, the council has not received any Final Reports from the FY23 grantees.

Henry Lappen has not returned the \$450 he had received for FY22-LCC-6616 *Henry the Juggler Performance*. He was not able to perform at the October 15, 2022 *RecFest* and has been contacted twice by email with a request to return the funds. Debbie Papa will send him a letter by registered mail requesting the return of the grant money.

New Business:

Donna Specian provided the council members with an update on how the HCC budget line item has been a part of the Hudson Division of Recreation's budget since 2008. Prior to that time, the HCC had its own line item in the annual budget. Donna has met with Steve Santos, Director of the Hudson Division of Recreation, who indicated that the Town Administrator would like the HCC's budget to be separated from the Division of Recreation's to appear as its own line item in the town's annual budget. The target date for this would be Fiscal Year 2025.

Donna is to meet with Steve again to work it out. She suggested that the council could contact other towns to see how their town funding is handled in their municipality's annual budget. Ellen Kisslinger gave a brief history of why the HCC's budget line was included with the Division of Recreation. She indicated it had to do with how the Arts Alliance used school space and that it was part of a bookkeeping issue that no longer applies.

Donna led the discussion on HCC's possible participation in this year's Hudson Arts Fest to be held on May 6th. Should the council wish to partake in this event, the application would need to be submitted by April 1st along with a \$50 fee. It was generally felt that the participants at this town-wide festival would be more arts

oriented, and it would be a place where the council might recruit new members as well as a time when festival-goers could fill out the annual community survey. A motion to participate in this event was made by Lindsay Kelkres and seconded by Patricia Luoto. The members voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

Lindsay and Donna led the review of the annual community survey. Lindsay recommended that the council continue to use Survey Planet as they have the data from previous years and they aggregate the responses into a final report. There was some discussion as to whether it was feasible to have the survey in various languages. It was decided that this would be difficult to do seeing that there are different dialects within languages and how many as well as which languages would need to be chosen. It was generally agreed upon that the survey should go live on May 1st and continue to June 30th.

After a brief discussion of open-ended Question #8 – *How can diversity and/or access to the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences be improved in the Hudson community?* it was determined not to change the question to address other content nor to change its current wording.

On a motion from Peter Fiske and a second from Debbie Papa the council voted 8-0 to approve the rewording of Question #5 from *Which social media source?* to read as *In reference to the previous question, which social media source(s) do you use?* This edit was to clarify that Q5 is a sideline question to Q4.

Members are encouraged to volunteer to help distribute survey information to various agencies using the distribution plan on the council's Google Drive and to record their efforts on the spreadsheet so that other members are aware of what has been accomplished.

There is a concern that the council needs to maintain the appropriate number of members since several current members have terms which will expire at the end of 2023. Doris Monteiro reported that a press release announcing that the HCC is looking for new members has appeared in two newspapers, posted on a newspaper's website as well as on the town's website, and has been sent out to people subscribing to Hudson's ListServe.

Miscellaneous:

None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger. The council voted 8 to 0 via a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 7:00 PM with the location (possibly the Town Hall or the Community Room at Avidia Bank) to be determined. Should the Governor extend the date for towns to hold remote meetings it is possible the meeting would be held on Zoom. The purpose of this meeting would be to do a final review of the 2023 Community Input Survey and to finalize plans to participate in the May 6th Hudson Arts Fest.

Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 at 7:00 PM with location TBD based on possible legislation that would extend the date of remote meetings. The purpose would be to review the results of the community survey, to update council priorities and guidelines based on results, and to vote on the type of payment model (direct payment or reimbursement) HCC would use to channel funds to grantees in the next fiscal cycle.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Monteiro, Secretary