

Hudson Cultural Council Minutes

Meeting Date: January 19, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting
ID# 818 6038 3057

Members Present via Roll Call: Peter Fiske, Ellen Kisslinger, Cheryl Lombardo, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Stephanie Simard, Donna Specian

Members Absent: Dorothy Bagley, Sarah Worrest (Ex-officio)

Council Applicant in Attendance: Debbie Papa

Others in Attendance: Anthony Monteiro

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Patricia Luoto, Co-Chair. Debbie Papa was recognized as a perspective member to the council. Members renewing and sworn in for another term were Patricia Luoto and Stephanie Simard. Ellen Kisslinger and Doris Monteiro have moved from ex-officio to active/sworn-in members of the council.

On a motion by Peter Fiske, seconded by Ellen Kisslinger, the members voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 council meeting.

New Business:

Patricia Luoto began this portion of the meeting by giving an overview of the procedures the council would use in the review, the discussion and the vote of the grant proposals.

Stephanie Simard reviewed the finances available for distribution. The Mass Cultural Council FY21 allocation was \$9,900, the Town of Hudson FY21 allocation \$3,500, in addition to \$900 in FY20 grants that were not submitted for reimbursement. These amounts along with bank interest amounted to \$14,926. The council annually puts aside an amount for administrative costs. A motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Donna Specian to hold \$626 in reserve for administrative costs. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion. Such costs would include the council's annual online survey, the \$12 cost for the website as well as the purchase of a council banner to be used at community events and any related printed material needed for the council. It was determined that the council had a total of \$14,300 to distribute during this grant cycle. There were sixteen grant application requests totaling \$16,305 to be considered.

Doris Monteiro provided the council with an overview of the initial screening process, in addition to the council's funding priorities and its local guidelines. A spreadsheet which included these priorities and guidelines as well as the MCC's panel book list of grant applicants and requested amounts was shared on zoom with all attending the meeting.

An initial screening of each application consisted of "qualify" or "do not qualify" based on council funding priorities and/or local guidelines. It was determined that six of the applications fell into the "do not qualify" category. After discussion, the council took a roll call vote on each grant that would be denied funds with a stated reason for denial.

- A motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger to deny funding for Grant #47078 *Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck* based on the reason that it did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.
- A motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger to deny funding for Grant #45888 *The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape – Photographs of New Americans/Mark Chester Diversity Project* based on the reason that it did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

- A motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger to deny funding for Grant #45326 *Phoenix Rising: Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra Relaunch!* based on the reason that it did not provide enough public benefit to our community compared to other proposals we received. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.
- A motion was made by Stephanie Simard and seconded by Peter Fiske to deny funding for Grant #45265 *Chainsaws, Cheeseburgers and Rock N' Roll Live!* based on the reason that it did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.
- A motion was made by Stephanie Simard and seconded by Doris Monteiro to deny funding for Grant #45227 *Duo Pianists, Composers & Educators Whipple & Morales in Concert* based on the reason that it did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.
- A motion was made by Stephanie Simard and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger to deny funding for Grant #40195 *Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors!* based on the reason that it did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

The council then proceeded to review and discuss the grants that qualified for this funding cycle all the while deciding which grants to fully fund giving priority to those projects within Hudson. After a preliminary amount was assigned to each qualifying grant, it was determined that \$975 was available beyond the amounts requested in each grant. Following discussion, a motion was by Peter Fiske and seconded by Stephanie Simard to appropriate an additional \$795 to the Hudson Division of Recreation for their Grant #45400 *2021 Summer Concert Series* and an additional \$200 to Symphony Pro Musica for their Grant #45393 *2020-2021 Season*. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion. A motion was then made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Stephanie Simard to vote the qualifying grants in a block by roll call vote. All qualifying grants (#45871, #45400, #45393, #42990, #42898, #42443, #40440, #41818, #42177, #41557) were included in the motion which the council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve.

A motion for the election of officers for the 2020-2021 council year was made by Patricia Luoto and seconded by Peter Fiske. By a roll call vote of 7 – 0, the following members were elected to these positions:

Co-Chair: Patricia Luoto

Co-Chair: Donna Specian

Treasurer: Stephanie Simard

Secretary: Doris Monteiro

Debbie Papa confirmed that she would like to become a member of the council. A motion was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Stephanie Simard to put Debbie's name forward to the Select Board for appointment. The council voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

Items listed under Old Business on the agenda will be taken up at the next council meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doris Monteiro and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger. The council voted 7 to 0 via a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Future Meeting:

Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 7:00 PM – To address any reconsideration requests from applicants who were denied funding, to review the proposed HCC website and council logo, as well as to plan for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Monteiro, Secretary

