

Hudson Cultural Council

Minutes

Meeting Date: August 19, 2019

Location: Hudson Town Hall
3rd Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Dorothy Bagley, Jane Gordon, Ellen Kisslinger, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Bob Olkin, Stephanie Plourde-Simard

Members Absent: Ellen King, Jennifer Finn, Helen Mutti, Sarah Worrest

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ellen Kisslinger, Co-Chair.

The minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Stephanie Plourde-Simard led the discussion in reviewing the results of the HCC 2019 Community Survey. It was decided to take note of specific comments provided in the survey and to relay the context to various subgroups within the Town of Hudson for their consideration. The Council deemed it important to share the survey results with various departments within the town such as the School Dept., the Division of Recreation, Community Development, the Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, as well as with other community groups such as the Business Improvement District and the River's Edge Arts Alliance. In an effort to spread the word to the townspeople, Jane Gordon will be drafting an open letter where the survey results could be shared via the town website or other platform.

Patricia Luoto provided the Council with an update regarding the possible use of the Armory as an Arts Center. It appears that the Board of Selectmen will be asking the State for a date extension regarding the town's interest in the acquisition of the building. The Business Improvement District conducted a feasibility study and shared their results with the community since the Council's last meeting in April. The BID dropped out of the Armory project. Efforts to establish the Armory as a Community Arts Center have been picked up by a group of interested citizens, the Hudson Cultural Alliance, which is forming an independent non-profit agency.

New Business:

Based on the survey results, the Council unanimously voted to keep the HCC funding priorities as they are currently posted on the Mass Cultural Council website. As Secretary, Doris Monteiro will send out press releases announcing the 2019-2020 grant cycle.

Since the term for several members will expire on December 31, 2019, the Council decided to advertise via local media for new council members. Stephanie will promote PR via Facebook, and Doris will continue with press releases to area newspapers.

Doris Monteiro is interested in continuing in the Secretary's position as an ex-officio member during the 2020 calendar year.

Future Meetings:

Thursday, October 3rd - To continue discussion of survey results and best ways to distribute information to Hudson community; to welcome any new members to the Council

Thursday, November 7th - To review grant applications and vote on distribution of FY20 grant money

Thursday, December 5th - To address any reconsideration requests from applicants who were denied funding and to plan for the upcoming year (transitioning into 2020, Community Survey timeline for 2020, ArtFest Hudson, etc.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Monteiro, Secretary