

Minutes

Public Body: Cultural District Committee

Date: March 2, 2023

Location: Remote via Zoom

Members Present:

Caitlin von Schmidt (Chair)

Christy Moore

Gretchen Green

Rachael Katz

Ellie Mandell (Clerk)

Jackson Williams

Members Absent:

Charlotte Treiber

Steven Goldsher

Stephen Hussey

Also in attendance: Christian LaPlante, City of Greenfield Grant Program Assistant.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Ellie made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes and Rachael seconded. Roll call vote to approve the prior meeting minutes: Caitlin, yay; Gretchen, yay; Ellie, yay; Jackson, yay; Rachael, yay. Christy abstained. The prior meeting minutes were approved.

Ongoing Business

Current grant timeline: Our final report is due to the Mass Council and the \$15,000 that we received must be spent (must leave the City's coffers) by July 14, 2023.

2022/2023 Project goals: The committee discussed possible approaches to project funding this year. Rachael said we could follow a similar model as the Local Cultural Council, where we have an open solicitation, then evaluate everything that comes in and fund as many as we can. Christy suggested two shovel-ready projects: interactive arts by an established company (Creos), and new downtown business district banners with designs by local artists (printing plus installation for 72 banners would be about \$20k). Jackson suggested creating a museum or similar exhibit space focused on activities for children and Caitlin suggested making use of existing infrastructure such as the Historical Society or Artspace for this purpose. Jackson will follow up by beginning a discussion with Artspace about a possible collaboration.

Project selection and funding allocation ideas: Ellie's suggestion for 1: selecting projects by yay or nay and then 2: each committee member allocating a pro rata portion of total funding available, was used as a springboard for a discussion about what selection and allocation method would work best for us.

There was consensus that a rubric/ranking system involving scoring by established criteria was desirable. One issue is how to gather the profile information we would need for the projects under consideration. Christian said he would look into the current MCC form which we could repurpose.

Caitlin encouraged members of the committee to spend some time thinking about what options we would prefer and to come prepared to make decisions during our next meeting.

Adjourn

Rachael made a motion to adjourn and Jackson seconded. Roll call vote to adjourn: Caitlin, yay; Gretchen, yay; Ellie, yay; Jackson, yay; Rachael, yay; Christy, yay. The meeting was adjourned at around 7:40 pm.