

## **HARWICH CULTURAL COUNCIL - MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 14, 2019, 4:30 pm at the Harwich Cultural Center**

**Members Present:** Tina Games, Shay Mitchell, Rosanne Shapiro, Laurinda Raquel, Kathy Teahan, Chris Banks (absent: Rose Ann Clarke, Joan Sacchetti)

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 by Tina.

### **Public Comments and Announcements:**

We discussed MCC Advocacy Day, March 26<sup>th</sup>; let Tina know if you wish to attend. There's also a regional body that advocates for arts/culture that we might want to be involved with next year.

### **Introduction of New Council Members:** We welcomed new members:

Laurinda Raquel works in the healing arts using sound healing and Soul Collage, has a studio in the Harwich Cultural Center and offers programs at Pilgrims Landing and Karma Wellness.

Kathy Teahan is a retired English teacher as well as a former State legislator. She has studied Reiki and is certified as a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree practitioner.

Chris Banks is an artist who markets her work as "Art from the Heart." She is president of the Guild of Harwich Artists and previous director of its gallery.

Current members (Shay Mitchell, Rosanne Shapiro and Tina Games) introduced themselves. Tina shared information about members not present (Joan Sacchetti and Rose Ann Clarke) as well as those who have already resigned (Lorraine Bossi and Rosann Donahue).

**Review and Approval of February 14, 2019 meeting minutes:** motion by Shay, seconded by Tina – approved unanimously

**Review and approval of current financial report:** Our treasurer, Joan Sacchetti, was not present, so we did not receive a formal report. Tina provided an update re: the \$10,000 grant from the State for Cultural Compact which was deposited in our account incorrectly. Cyndi Williams and Charleen Greenhalgh are in the process of correcting this error with the Town Accountant.

### **Old Business:**

2019 Grant Awardees – Tina explained the process of awarding grants; grantees have up to one year to submit reimbursement requests.

### **Invitations to events and thank you notes** –

- Two members of the Council (Rosanne and Rose Ann) will join the Monomoy Regional Middle School for a trip to Providence to see "Phantom of the Opera".
- We received two sets of tickets to "Newsies" at Monomoy High School; Chris and her husband, and Shay and a friend will be attending.
- "The Heat is On," a program of the Museum of Science, will be presented at the Middle School on Friday, April 5 from 11:55-12:22 in the auditorium (Melinda Forist is school contact). Any Council members who are available should attend.

MCC Cultural Compact – Tina provided brief explanation: six cities and one town were selected; Harwich was the only town. The program's guiding principle is that the arts and culture feed the local

economy and need to be supported. The Harwich Cultural Compact includes two cultural district designations.

Cultural District Designations (update) – Tina was in Boston Feb.8<sup>th</sup> for a meeting with the MCC, at which time the compact was extended for a second year. We are eligible for a matching grant up to \$5,000 (MCC and the town via Chris Clark) and we are looking at ways to use these funds. Cultural Center improvements and development of cultural districts are already covered by \$10,000 grant, so we might designate additional funds for development of Saquatucket Harbor artisan shacks. Cyndi, Charleen and Erica are working on an application to MCC for a matching grant and have until May 15<sup>th</sup> to designate a specific project.

There are two upcoming meetings re: cultural districts on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Chris will be attending the one re: Harwich Port and Rosanne will attend the Harwich Center meeting.

Harwich Cultural Council Interview – Tina was interviewed on Channel 18 for the Voter Information Committee forum and used this opportunity to promote the Council and its increased visibility as a result of the Cultural Compact. Tina also shared information about our logo and Shay's role in its design in collaboration with the Tech School. She suggested that we share the logo with community programs for use on their websites.

### **New Business:**

HCC Community Assessment – Tina shared re: background of the survey – a requirement from MCC – as well as our focus this year on the grant program, increasing our visibility and obtaining feedback re: populations served. Only 56 people have responded so far; Council members were encouraged to send the survey link to our networks. We reviewed results even though the number of responses is low. The cut-off is March 20<sup>th</sup> due to Survey Monkey parameters; we can run the survey longer, and it was suggested that we extend the deadline for another month. Current survey results indicate that the teen-age population has the largest percentage of need although there are already number of programs aimed at teens. We will see what additional survey results yield.

Fundraising Subcommittee – Tina and Shay talked about past fund-raising efforts that added to the funds from the town (\$3,600) and MCC (\$4,600). Since the travel programs used previously seem to have declined as a source of income, we are looking for new ways to add to our treasury before the new grant cycle begins (Oct. 1). Laurinda and Kathy volunteered to oversee fund-raising, partnering with Cyndi and Charleen. Several suggestions were made at our meeting last September which need to be revisited. In addition, Cyndi needs approval from her board since any funds raised need to be split between the Council and the Chamber. Tina is available to assist with this task.

Grant Reception Subcommittee – Tina and Rosanne shared information about the reception to which all grantees are invited with the option of giving a brief presentation about their projects. This year's reception will be held on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> in the Harwich Cultural Center library. Attendees with musical talent can do a mini-performance or provide a short video of their projects. Tina has sent out invitations; Rosanne and Shay will work on refreshments; all Council members will assist with set-up and clean-up.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. – motion by Rosanne – seconded by Chris – approved unanimously