

HARWICH CULTURAL COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2019 Harwich Cultural Center 4:30 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair, Tina Games

Public Comments and Announcements:

Tina introduced Erica Strzepek, Program Aide at the Harwich Cultural Center, who shared information about Art Week events (April 26th through May 5th). We are invited to the kickoff event for the Seaside Marketplace at Saquatucket Marina on Friday, May 4th from 10-11 a.m. Speakers will include Sen. Julian Cyr, Sue Sullivan of the Boch Center (sponsor of Art Week), and a member of the Board of Selectmen. Tina will speak on behalf of the Harwich Cultural Council. The event will include a tour of the marina and will be held rain or shine with seating in the new marina building in the event of inclement weather. The theme is “the creative economy,” emphasizing the great strides we’ve made with the development of the Cultural Center as well as related ventures focusing on not only the arts but also the wide range of entrepreneurs in Harwich. Our artisan shacks at the marina will be similar to those in Hyannis, Falmouth and Orleans, and will be specific to Harwich, with each shack named for a local waterway: Round Cove, Wychmere, Allen Harbor and Herring River. This event is tied in with the development of cultural districts as well as the cultural compact with MCC.

Erica shared briefly about Art Week events including “Marketing 101,” providing information about ways in which the arts can help our community thrive, as well as a “Light the Night” event, guaranteed to be a big hit as it was during Art Week last year.

Rosanne reminded us about volunteer opportunities during Art Week, and Erica encouraged Council members to sign up. Information for volunteers about the Center will be presented at “Coffee with Brian” each Monday at 9 a.m. For the coming week, this gathering will be on Tuesday (April 16th) due to the Patriots’ Day holiday.

Introduction of new members – We also introduced members absent from last meeting (Rose Ann and Joan). Tina clarified the terms of office for the Cultural Council. In her introduction, Rose Ann talked about a past fundraiser – a jazz concert at Wychmere Harbor w/ Lou Columbo’s group – that was very successful and perhaps can be duplicated in current fund-raising efforts.

Review and approval of March 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Chris made two corrections to the minutes: (1) in the section with information about new members, “president of the Guild of Harwich Artists” should be changed to “past president of the Guild of Harwich Artists”; (2) according to Robert’s Rules of Order, the term “Old Business” should be replaced by “Unfinished Business”. These corrections were brought to a vote with a motion by Chris, seconded by Joan. The motion failed to pass. Tina made a new motion, seconded by Kathy to insert “previous” before “director” in the March minutes, and to research and discuss the proposed terminology change (Old Business to Unfinished Business) at our May meeting. This motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved with the correction as stated above.

Review and approval of current financial report – Treasurer Joan Sacchetti presented the latest financial report and, in answer to Rosanne’s question, explained what is meant by the term “gift account”: income from donations and fund-raising activities, i.e., any funds not coming from the town or the state. Joan also clarified the \$1,600 amount on her report which is grant money not spent by grantees: FOPA, ALP and the Whydah trip.

For the benefit of new members, we discussed Council finances briefly, i.e., that we receive funds from the state (MCC) on January 1st and funds from the town on July 1st. Because the town and the state have different fiscal years, we receive town funds before state funds, a gap that has necessitated a change in the letter sent to grantees emphasizing that reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than six months after the date of the grantee's program.

Old Business

2019 Grant Awardees – We have received invitations to events and thank you notes from grantees, and Tina has been informing us of opportunities to attend events," e.g., "Newsies" at MRHS and the "Phantom of the Opera" trip by MRMS

Cultural District Meetings – Chris attended the recent Harwich Port Cultural District meeting and Rosanne attended the Harwich Center District meeting. Both Chris and Rosanne have sent emails to Council members with updated information

There was a question about Chris' notes re: who is on cultural district board, and Tina clarified the purpose of cultural district boards, i.e., to provide oversight, with Board of Selectmen approval. Tina will be the Cultural Council representative for the Harwich Center Cultural District. No one has been identified as our representative for the Harwich Port Cultural District.

Review of Community Needs Assessment – We reviewed the survey results to help determine next steps. We received 69 responses and some questions were skipped. The majority of respondents have heard about the Harwich Cultural Council although not many have applied for grants or attended grantee events. Regarding populations in need of programs funded by HCC grants, the greatest interest was in programs for younger populations. Seniors received the least number of responses, and it was pointed out that perhaps the increase in programs and activities through the Council on Aging has made this less of a perceived need. Tina pointed out that our original intent in the updated survey design was to solicit information about marketing our grant program. However, we didn't reach specific decisions about how to use survey results.

Rosanne asked about the expressed interest in having a community-wide event. Is this something we can promote, e.g., like Brewster in Bloom? It was pointed out that we have many events, especially in the summer, e.g., Harwich Port Stroll and Town Band concerts, that attract visitors as well as locals, so perhaps we are already meeting that need.

New Business

MCC Liaison – Our new contact at MCC is Lisa Simmons who replaces Charlotte Cutter. Lisa has been invited to our grant reception in June.

Fundraising Subcommittee –Laurinda, Kathy and Tina met to brainstorm ideas and had a follow-up with meeting with Cyndi Williams to discuss a larger fundraising event. The committee (and Cyndi) are looking at June 2020 to create a weekend of events and activities that will tie in with the launch of our cultural districts. Ideas discussed included a Mariners game on Friday with an art fair, a cemetery tour on Saturday focusing on women authors who are buried there (with Robin Kelly, Cemetery Director as a partner) in addition to open studios at the Cultural Center; evening events on Saturday might be a panel of living authors (to tie in with the cemetery tour) and/or a concert/reception at the newly renovated South Harwich Meeting House (with Judy Ford as a partner).

The discussion of the weekend of events also included the possibility of a silent auction (with paintings donated by local artists) as well as involvement of local restaurants. Some events may have

tickets (as part of the fund-raising effort). Since we will be splitting profits with the Chamber, we need to consider how to make the weekend profitable for both the Council and the Chamber.

The discussion of the Fund-Raising Committee's short-term plans included revisiting the idea of creating cards with photos of a variety of sites in Harwich. We can consider having students at, e.g., Monomoy HS and the Tech School, take pictures and perhaps utilize the new printing department at the Tech School. We can start the process now and aim to have the finished cards in time for the next grant cycle although, with the school year coming to an end in a few months, this might not be feasible for the fall. We need to think about other ways to add to the funds we receive from the state and the town and decide if the fund-raising ideas have to be culturally related. The committee had considered using discount cards for local businesses; however, Tina shared that the Monomoy Boosters had tried this and found it too difficult to manage.

We also considered the possibility of using some elements of 2020 event (discussed earlier) as individual events for fundraising, e.g., cemetery tour, living authors event. We need to make sure that any author event does not interfere with Chase Library and WE CAN events that include local authors. Another possibility is a scavenger hunt (perhaps including a labyrinth) which would take participants (possibly in teams) through shops and galleries to pick up clues.

Grant Reception Subcommittee – The reception will be held on June 6th in the Cultural Center library. Rosanne and Shay have been planning the specifics (refreshments, set-up) and will arrange the physical set-up, equipment, etc. with Cultural Center staff. Once we know which grantees will be attending (through response to invites), we will see if any can provide a short musical or dance piece as part of the sharing time.

Other Items - Art Week events at the Harwich Cultural Center was reported on by Erica Strzepek at the beginning of our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m. – Motion by Rose Ann, seconded by Chris.