

HARWICH CULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2019, Harwich Cultural Center 4:30 PM

Present: Tina Games, Rosanne Shapiro, Rose Ann Clarke, Joan Sacchetti, Laurinda Raquel, Shay Mitchell, Chris Banks, Dinah Lane (guest/prospective member) (absent: Kathy Teahan)

Chair Tina Games called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Public Comments and Announcements: We were joined by Dinah Lane, a prospective member of the Harwich Cultural Council. She is a former member of the Watertown Cultural Council, serving as co-chair. Here on Cape Cod she is on the Next Stage Committee for Cape Rep, is Music Director for the Latham Players, is in a consortium, Cape Cod CAN, and does interviews for Channel 18 – she has interviewed Laurinda and Chris in that capacity. Afterwards, current HCC members introduced themselves their experiences being HCC members.

Laurinda has just been invited onto the Board at Pilgrim's Landing

Rosanne shared an article in Harwich Neighbors re: the recent trip to Providence with Monomoy Regional Middle School to see "Phantom of the Opera."

Tina reported on the Monomoy Regional School District's appreciation breakfast where the HCC was acknowledged for its support to schools in the district. Tina spoke with Chatham CC members who were present, and she plans to meet with them to share ideas re: fund-raising.

Review and Approval of May 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Rose Ann, seconded by Laurinda.

Review and approval of current financial report – Joan reported that we now have \$2,725 available above funds encumbered for grant projects.

Old Business:

2019 Grant Reception – Rosanne suggested that next year we have one of our members stationed at the door to welcome latecomers. She will put together a notebook with information for planning future events. We briefly discussed other details of the reception including refreshments and program format. Since we had a significant amount of food left over, it was suggested that next year we might consider starting at 4:30 with the first half-hour for connection, refreshments, etc. Approximately 30 people attended this year's event. Tina shared that a piano has been donated to the Cultural Center, so we might think about having next year's reception in the auditorium, which would support singers and musicians as presenters. Having a strict time limit on presentations seemed to work well this year. Tina spoke with Sam Montaña afterwards; she attended the Chatham Cultural Council reception the previous day and shared that Harwich and Chatham had the "best receptions."

Dinah asked about opportunities to observe programs in progress as a way to ensure that grantees are holding to the specs of their proposals. While we do get invited by many of our grantees to attend their events, it may be difficult with some programs that are more like classroom situations, e.g., Sharon Leder's program, Creative Outlets, where our presence might be intrusive. Chris attended a recent open house for Creative Outlets and was able to get a good sense of the program's content and scope. Dinah

also suggested we encourage grantees to involve HCC members in their programs, i.e., manage a calendar of events more formally (a “grant coordinator”?) so they can provide enough advance notice of upcoming events to enable HCC members to attend. Tina reminded us of recent survey results showing that teenagers are seen as the population in most need of funding – so it appears that we are on track with the programs we chose to fund this year.

Rosanne asked about press coverage. There was some coverage before the event, but it’s not clear if there was any on the day of the event. Dinah suggested that we consider doing a video, perhaps through channel 18; we might also post a video on the town web page. Perhaps more exposure will support an increased funding request at town meeting. Other ideas generated for increasing our visibility included programs on channels 5 and 2 that cover local events.

Fundraising Subcommittee – Laurinda reported on collaboration with the Cape Cod Tech to produce note cards; they are on board to begin this process in September. She and Kathy have also been in contact with Bernadette Waystack re: note cards as an art project for honor students at MRHS as a fundraiser. She reported that this is easier with students than with established artists as there is no issue re: artists’ trademarks. Laurinda will follow-up with Bernadette by the second week of the new school year. We discussed how much we can expect to raise from the sale of note cards, and noted that we need to come up with more options as card sales will not yield a significant amount. We revisited briefly our experience with trips as fundraisers and acknowledged that, as successful as they were, we reached a peak with diminishing returns. We will continue to explore other options as well as the amount of money we’d like to raise.

New Business:

MCC Cultural Compact – Our local cultural compact received a grant on 6/10/19 of \$5,000 with a matching grant to support a local project that is culture-driven. This might include further enhancements to the Cultural Center. The specifics will be announced at the next BOS meeting.

Community Partnerships/Joint Events – We discussed the need to explore opportunities to partner with local programs on events that will enhance our financial resources, e.g., Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, Cape Cod Theater Company/Harwich Junior Theater. We also discussed the possibility of partnering with local stores, e.g., Trader Joe’s, for “dedicated sales” to nonprofits, but further discussion would be needed.

HCC Officers for 2019-2020 – This is our last meeting of FY19, i.e., we do not meet again until September, which is the beginning of FY20. If a member is interested in assuming the position of Chair (beyond FY20), Tina is available to work with that person to transition. Dinah suggested we consider a co-chair model which we have used in the past. We will explore this suggestion at a future meeting.

Tina was elected unanimously as Chair, and Rosanne was elected unanimously as Secretary. Joan ran through basics of the Treasurer position. There are no volunteers for this position at present. Tina and Joan will meet throughout the summer to oversee HCC finances, and we will revisit this issue in September to assess current members’ interest in this position.

Meeting Schedule 2019-2020 – We will continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Harwich Cultural Center, beginning in September. Tina requested that we start a half-hour earlier to allow her time to get to School Committee meetings held on the same day of the week.

Membership Recruitment – There are four spots open as of July 1; both Dinah and Laura Balboni are interested, and Laura will try to stop by toward the end of our meeting today.

Other Items

2020 Grant Application Process – The process opens September 1st with a six-week window for applications and a hard stop in mid-October (around the Columbus Day holiday). Tina will send a media release about the application date/process; everything is on-line and thus, much easier.

A question was asked about agendas and minutes which are posted on the town website. The agenda is posted 48 hours before the meeting, and the minutes are posted after they are approved. Tina also reviewed the process of sending the agenda and minutes before meeting.

HCC Grant Information Session – Tina did this last year and 12 people attended. She will follow up with Erica re: possible dates for a similar session which can be very helpful for potential applicants and also increases our visibility.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. – motion by Chris; seconded by Rose Ann