

*May 27 2022 10:19 am*

FITCHBURG CULTURAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, 2022, online

In attendance: Tamar Russell Brown (co-chair), Audrey Pendleton-Chow (co-chair), Eileen Berger, Matt Bruun, Samuel Luxema, Liz Murphy, Shara Osgood, Casey Taylor, Joe Bowen (*ex officio*)

Guests: Catherine Judge, Jennifer Jones

Call meeting to order, Meeting Guest Protocols, Commendation, Stating of Mission:

Tamar called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Scholarship

Tamar introduced Catherine Judge from Sizer School. Funding from Enterprise Bank will support one \$500 scholarship, with Audrey explaining another \$500 is already available in council funds. This would allow two \$500 scholarships to be awarded each year.

C.M. Judge organized the program in the first place. She reviewed other scholarship programs as a template in search of formats that would attract students while allowing judges to weigh applicants' commitment to the arts.

Tamar explained the scholarship will be open to high school students from Fitchburg who are looking to major in arts-related area of study. Council would review applicants and portfolios and submit to the Central Massachusetts Women's Caucus for Art.

There was discussion of scholarship application requirements, from letters of recommendation and transcripts to a written essay. Scholarship winners will also be asked to show their work to be shared at a following grantee reception (though there was concern about the costs of matting and framing the works for public display).

Applications will be due April 15 with final decisions by May 15.

Eileen moved to accept the scholarship fund for this year, seconded by Liz. There was discussion of making it a single \$1,000 scholarship, but the consensus was to support two \$500 awards. Approval was unanimous.

Stratton Players

Tamar noted the Stratton Players has asked for a letter of support for their efforts to rehabilitate Lucy's Barn as a community arts center. Eileen moved to support the letter, seconded by Matt. Approval was unanimous.

#### Review Past Meeting Minutes

Casey moved to accept past meeting minutes, seconded by Eileen. Approval was unanimous.

#### Grantee Updates/Modifications/Extensions/Grant Updates

Tamar explained a meeting was needed to vote on funding for the 2022 grant cycle, with a date of 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27.

#### PR for 2022/Grantee Reception

Audrey explained that Eileen had created a working PR plan for 2022. Eileen will share with the council and the PR committee will review. Among the ideas being discussed is a fuller exhibition of grantee projects, as commingling the grantee reception with the public input session may have given the artists comparatively short shrift. Liz said there is Massachusetts Cultural Council grant funding available for arts festivals of this type. Eileen moved to apply for that grant, seconded by Shara. Approval was unanimous.

#### FCC Positions

Tamar nominated Eileen to serve as grant coordinator; Matt as secretary; and Liz as treasurer. Eileen nominated Audrey as chair of the PR subcommittee and Audrey nominated Eileen as co-chair of the PR subcommittee. Eileen nominated Tamar as chair and Liz nominated Audrey as co-chair. Matt moved to close nominations, seconded by Eileen. Eileen moved to accept nominations as proposed, seconded by Shara. Approval was unanimous. Audrey moved to retain Joe Bowen as *ex officio* member, seconded by Shara.

#### Adjournment

Audrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m., seconded by Eileen. Approval was unanimous.

*Submitted by Matt Bruun*