



MEETING MINUTES

June 9th, 2021 7:04PM | ZOOM (VIRTUAL)

TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
FACILITATOR	Jennifer Riley
NOTE TAKER	Brandon Lewis
ATTENDEES	Jennifer Riley, Nikki Erskine, Sean Brennan, David Filar, Chris Rich, Avae Thomas-Quartey
LATE	Silvana Boaheng
GUESTS	Christa Drew

AGENDA TOPICS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
CONCLUSION	Approved
Chris Rich motioned to approve, Sean Brennan seconded.	

II. BUDGET REPORT	
CONCLUSION	Approved
Sean Brennan motioned to approve, Brandon Lewis seconded.	

III. GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS

APP #	Grantee	Amount	Decision	Status	Notes
WAC-06	Arts Transcending Borders at the College of the Holy Cross	\$5,000	Approved	Provisional	Waiting for proof of eligible expenses, will revisit at July meeting
WAC-58	Cyrille Vincent	\$3,000	Approved	Partial	

IV. GRANT MODIFICATIONS

- A. Pakachoag Music School: Changed to pay for additional teacher hours, as opposed to a municipal employee. Approved
- B. Indian Lake Community Association
 - 1. Altered project from Block Party to constructing a stage, drastic change in project.
 - 2. Will encourage to plan an event that is more in line with what was originally approved- new project would require capital expenditures form
- C. Cyrille Vincent- Approved

V. NEA GRANT UPDATES

- A. Application is open!
 - 1. Fielded a few inquiries to date, no applications submitted currently, but applications are open until July 10th



2. Question about whether council members can apply for project funding- will require more information/ request a formal legal opinion
 - a) Discussion about difficulties with legal policy- all similar applications (WAC members, city employees, etc) need legal opinion on whether they can apply

VI. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

A. Grant Reception

1. No updates- meeting next week to finalize details
2. Save the Date will go out next week- will coordinate with Nikki

B. Community Input Survey

1. Lisa tracking amount of survey responses, 741 currently. Goal of 2800 for 2022.
2. Article in Worcester Magazine about NEA Grant and Community Input Survey will go out soon

C. Grant Guidelines

1. Working on making improvements to Airtable- where are people getting hung up and having issues completing applications?
2. Change in MCC application system caused difficulty
3. Brandon & Chris will work with Nikki to find solution with MCC to help decrease the failure rate

VII. STAFF UPDATES

- A. Grant Reception at 7:00pm- question about when the Mayor and Assistant City Manager should speak
 1. Waiting to hear back from Michael Bobbit, will also reach out to Ricky Guillaume
- B. DivvyCards- issues with WAC using credit cards to pay for certain things
 1. Will get these issued to 1-2 council members
- C. Airtable
 1. \$12/month. for NEA Grant and Fellowship Applications
 - a) Would have to submit budget revision to NEA to spend \$24 on Airtable subscription
 - (1) Chris motioned to approve spending \$24 of NEA funds to pay for this two month subscription, Sean seconded
- D. Strategic Planning Meeting- no conference rooms available
 1. Option to meet virtually, or choose another date
 - a) Working on choosing a new date, Nikki will check availability
- E. After July 15th, meetings *may* have to return to in-person
 1. Will ask if this excludes NEA Grant Review Meetings
- F. August 11th- Nikki will not be in town. May need to look at alternatives for August Monthly Meeting

VIII. UPCOMING #WACFUNDED EVENTS

- A. Push Worcester DIY Paint and Skate, Sunday June 12th
- B. Center for Nonviolent Solutions- Walking Tour Sunday June 12th
- C. Studio Theater Worcester "Next to Normal" - several
- D. July 10th- Worcester Symphony Orchestra
- E. Jewel of the Nile- Worcester Arts Museum

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20PM