

Hudson Cultural Council

Minutes

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Location: Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 821 1897 1646

Members Present via Roll Call: Lawrence Fine (joined at 7:30 pm), Peter Fiske, Lindsay Kelkres, Ellen Kisslinger, Cheryl Lombardo, Patricia Luoto, Debbie Papa, Donna Specian

Members Absent: Doris Monteiro

Others Present: Guests Leia Owen, Joanne Wheeler who may be interested in joining the Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Donna Specian, Chair. She welcomed Leia and Joanne as guests to the meeting and explained the purpose of the Hudson Cultural Council.

On a motion by Peter Fiske and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger, the members voted 6-0 by roll call to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 council meeting.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report - Debbie Papa announced that Henry Lappen returned \$450 from FY22-LCC-6616 grant *Henry the Juggler Performance*. His action came after a registered letter was mailed requesting return of the grant money which was sent after two email contacts resulted in no response.

Remaining funds for 2023 now total \$2866.00 and will be available for our grant distribution next year. This sum also includes \$900 from the Assabet Chamber of Commerce and \$625 from the Recreation Department, monies which were not previously requested. After discussion about direct granting and why the monies were not requested, the Treasurers will recheck these amounts, meet with the Town Treasurer to reconcile and report back at the next meeting.

Still outstanding is the Library grant for \$800 from FY22; approval was given at a past meeting for this grant to be extended to June, 2023, likely as part of Hudson Fest.

FY25 line-item budget update—Donna and Steven Santos, Director of the Recreation Department, will meet with the Town Treasurer in late summer to continue the discussion on the Town's yearly allocation of \$3500 which supplements the amount of grant monies available to HCC for disbursement. Since 2008 these monies have been distributed/transferred to HCC through the Recreation Department's budget; prior the monies were a separate HCC line item on the budget (no one knows why the change was made). The Executive Assistant would like HCC's budget line to be a separate line item on the Town Warrant. This means the HCC budget line allocation will need to be approved at Town Meeting in November as are other departments' and councils' allocations.

New Business:

Community Survey: Donna thanked Lindsay for all her work on website changes and for reviewing and providing edits on all documents relative to the annual survey. Donna, using Google Translate, took the initiative to convert the survey to Portuguese and Spanish; Google Docs can also be used to translate comments back to English for the final report. The Council thanked Donna for taking the lead in this new endeavor. Council members can still review the survey through the end of the month and provide feedback to Lindsay. She will clear out any responses and ready the survey for May 1 distribution.

Distribution Plan: The plan is on Google Docs; Donna provided a link via email to all Council members. All are asked to volunteer to help distribute survey information to various agencies and outlets using the spreadsheet so that all members are aware of what has been accomplished. Included in the email were also attachments of the tri-fold brochure and the palm cards. Donna made edits to these documents before distributing the attachments to the Council.

On April 30th Lindsay will post links to all members of the survey and the Distribution Plan.

Arts Fest: HCC's table will be along the Town Hall driveway, slot 23. Donna will provide a table and chairs; QR code to the survey; palm cards; HCC tri-fold brochure. Along with Donna volunteers to help staff the table include: Ellen 11:30 to 1:00; Pat 2:30 to 3:30.

Miscellaneous:

Donna again welcomed guests Leia Owen and Joanne Wheeler who may be interested in joining the Council. She reviewed the mission of HCC and explained the appointment process: submit Board Interest Form to Town Hall; vote/appointment by Select Board for a 3-year term (which can be extended for a second 3-year term); complete online course on ethics; sworn in at Town Hall; attend meetings 5-6 times/year currently via Zoom.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pat Luoto and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger. The council voted 7 to 0 via a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The purpose will be to review the results of the community survey, to update council priorities and guidelines based on results, and to vote on the type of payment model (direct payment or reimbursement) HCC would use to channel funds to grantees in the next fiscal cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K Luoto, Acting Secretary