

Meeting Minutes
Weston Cultural Council
Online via Zoom
May 20, 2020
7 p.m.

WCC Members Present Online: Anthony Butler, Paul Angiolillo, Christine Martin, Jacob Sagrans.

1. Call to order.

Chair Anthony Butler called the online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Anthony read the Town policy for online remote meetings. In addition to providing protocol for setting up these meetings, the policy provides guidelines for conducting a meeting from a legal compliance perspective as well as from a “how to use Zoom” standpoint.

2. Resident comments.

There were no online resident comments.

3. Assigning secretary

Chris Martin was the secretary for the meeting.

4. Review and approve the minutes from February 5, 2020

The minutes from February 5, 2020 were duly reviewed, and approved. They will be submitted to Town Hall and posted in the Council’s Google document folder. Paul mentioned that he had submitted an article to the Town Crier listing the grant recipients but had not seen the article in print. He will check with Kara about posting it on the town and/or council website.

5. Treasurer’s report

Tom was not in attendance at the meeting, and it was not clear that there had been any requests for reimbursement either for two outstanding grants from 2019 (Spellman Museum and AIC) or new 2020 grants, since the Town Hall has been closed.

6. Status of 2020 grants

Anthony reported that Anita Walker, Executive Director of MCC, had written to the Select Board suggesting that, if possible, grants should be disbursed to performers up front in order to support the ongoing needs of artists, even if the events themselves have been postponed. Anthony shared online several emails that he had received from current recipients whose grants have been affected by COVID-19, requesting various accommodations be made. Discussion of those and other grants followed:

- The Discovery Museum (\$250) emailed Anthony that they would like to use their grant to produce and disseminate online resources to families of children with disabilities. The council approved, feeling that this was in keeping with the goals of the original grant.
- The Wellesley Symphony Orchestra (\$300) emailed that the last two concerts of the 2019-20 year have been cancelled. There was a discussion about whether the grant could be seen as covering the first four concerts that were held as well as rehearsals and

other expenses spent in preparation for the cancelled concerts. Anthony or Tom will follow up.

- The Massachusetts Theater Festival (\$500) emailed Anthony that they will be conducting the festival online over a two week period starting May 18, using videos of performances that had been created while the participating schools were still in session. The members felt this was a creative approach to supporting the students while schools were cancelled but wondered what the actual expenses might be. Information about the festival is at <https://metg.org/hs-ms-virtual-festival>
- Jacob reported that the Golden Ball Tavern grant (\$1,000) might be hindered by the fact that one of the researchers was a Regis student intern and that the museum may not be open to other researchers.
- Chris reported that Celebrating Black History Month with Robert Freeman (\$500) took place as scheduled, and publicity included the appropriate mention of WCC and MCC support. She will check on the status of their reimbursement request.
- Chris reported that Gore Place's two women's history programs (\$200) and Songs of WWII (\$500) have been postponed. She will check on new dates.
- Jacob reported that he was in contact with the Chamber Music group (\$800) about a fall schedule at the Library

7. Recruitment of new members

Anthony reported that the Select Board received three applications for the one open position on the WCC. He will email the applications to the WCC members for review and comment. The Board makes the final selection. It was suggested that since there is only one opening at this time, the applicants who are not chosen should be encouraged to reapply for future openings.

8. Next meeting date and adjournment

The next meeting will be held online on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.