

Meeting Minutes
Weston Cultural Council
Online via Zoom
August 19, 2020
7 p.m.

WCC Members Present Online: Paul Angiolillo, Anthony Butler, Tom Kilgallen, Christine Martin, Jacob Sagrans, Sonali Tambe.

1. Call to order.

Chair Anthony Butler called the online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and began **recording the proceedings**. He read the Town policy for online remote meetings which provides protocol for setting up these meetings and guidelines for conducting a meeting from a legal compliance perspective.

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 July 22, 2020

The minutes from July 22, 2020 were duly reviewed, and approved. They will be submitted to Town Hall and posted in the Council's Google document folder.

5. Treasurer's report

Tom reported that all of the 2019 grants have been reimbursed. The invoices from the 2020 Regis College art exhibit were processed and a check has been sent. He has received receipts from the MA Educational Theater Guild to cover costs of their spring festival which was held virtually due to Covid-19.

Briefly, there is currently \$9,003.73 in the WCC account. \$8,761 is encumbered funds for 2020 grants. Deducting administrative costs and adding accumulated interest, there is an unencumbered balance of approximately \$42. Tom will begin working with the town's treasurer's office to compile the 2019 Annual Report, the deadline for which has been extended.

Beginning Balance FY20 \$11,400.73

Reimbursements since last meeting
FY19

Weston Arts & Innovation Center 1,900.00 - this zeroes the encumbered balance for FY19.

FY20

Lisa Glickstein- Celebrating Black History Month with Robert Freeman 497.00

FY20 Grants Not yet reimbursed (Encumbered): 8,761.00

FY19 Balance available for general purpose \$125.00

Accumulated Interest \$75.73

Total FY20 Available Balance as of 6/23/2020 (money not granted in FY 20) \$42.00

Ending Balance as of 8/19/2020 \$9,003.73

6. Check In: Status of 2020 grants

Members reported on the various organizations/performers with whom they've been in contact.

- Jacob reported that the Upasana Odissi dance program took place virtually on August 10 and he would contact them about submitting the necessary forms for reimbursement.
- Sonali received an email from the Charles River Sinfonietta saying they were hoping to hold their concert outdoors at the library, which would require approval from the town. There was a brief discussion about other possible venues, like the high school outdoor amphitheater. Members agreed that while the council is not required to locate venues for programs, it might be helpful during the pandemic to suggest alternatives if it allows a program to occur.
- Tom reported that the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra cancelled the last two concerts of the 2019-20 year, but the first three of the season were held and expenses incurred could be covered by their grant.
- Anthony received an email from the new president of the Friendly Society who said that the \$800 the group was awarded to provide scholarships to Middle School participants was not needed because all participants in the spring production were full-pay (one performance for parents was held before the production was shut down due to Covid-19.) There was some discussion about whether to allow them to reallocate the funds during this grant cycle.
- Anthony said that the Lands Sake programs are on hold until the public school reopening plans are known since the programs are for field trips.

Anthony reported that he had received a lengthy email from MCC liaison Timothea Pham with directives from MCC on how to proceed with reimbursement of grants for programs which have not been held as planned due to Covid-19. The MCC suggests that LCCs allow grantees to modify their programs by changing the venue or holding them online, rather than cancel outright. They also recommended allowing extensions to grantees until FY21 or possibly FY22. Anthony will email current grant recipients to share the information from the MCC regarding extensions and to encourage them to modify their programs rather than cancel them.

7. New Business

Tom indicated that the timeline for the grant cycle is October 1 to November 16. There was a discussion about timing for a press release announcing the grant cycle. Paul will prepare an article and circulate it, then post it on Facebook and send it to the press in mid-September. The council agreed to discuss the value of using other social media, like Instagram, during the next meeting.

8. Next meeting date and adjournment

The next meeting will be held online on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.