

**CARLISLE CULTURAL COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Nickles Room, Town Hall**  
**February 28, 2020**

**Present:** Morgen Bearse, Alain Bojarski Jill Henderson, Mark Levitan, Carren Panico, Caren Ponty, Jen Sagalyn, and Abby Zimmerman

**Guest:** Jerry Lerman, Community Center Feasibility Study and Advisory Group

**1. Call to Order 8:02 AM**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A. Motion to approve minutes of January 24, 2020 as written made by Levitan, second by Sagalyn. Vote 5-0-3.

**3. Old Business**

A. Council Sponsored Open Mic program

Levitan, Sagalyn, Ponty and Bojarski reported on the Open Mic that took place at FRS on Sunday evening February 9. More than 40 people attended, and there were 12 performances of music, poetry and storytelling. Teens from the FRS program attended and contributed. All members of the Council who were in attendance agreed that it was a wonderful event.

Ponty encountered a guest who thought that the program was being produced by FRS, echoing her own concerns about the publicity materials. Future designs should make the connection to CCC clearer.

Advertising costs were higher than the proposed budget. It was decided to place two ads in the Mosquito, while the cost of printing and laminating posters for the sandwich board were overlooked in the budget. However, other costs were not incurred as budgeted so the event came in slightly under the total expected.

The Council discussed ways to build on this success, such as bringing in a "headliner" with Carlisle connections, and producing thematic events. Subcommittee will schedule a May 2020 date for the next in the series.

B. Social Media project

Bearse reported that we are up to 45 "likes" on the Council Facebook page. While a small number, growth has been good and we're at 1% of our population, better than every town that surrounds us. We need to increase visibility of page. Council members are asked to share Council posts with their own networks of friends.

Bearse raised the question whether we should promote on Facebook only those events supported by our grants, or all events from our grantees? The consensus of the meeting was we should promote as much as we can on behalf of groups we support, not restricted to granted events. In most cases we'd simply be reposting information from these groups. We would also repost events promoted by surrounding towns' cultural councils.

C. FY20 Grants process review - deferred

**4. New Business**

A. Community Center project

Jerry Lerman of the **Community Center Feasibility Study and Advisory Group** presented an introduction to the proposed Community Center project, outlining the history, planning and current status. He reviewed the space utilization program that the feasibility study architect has proposed in the conceptual plan drawings, based on input from the Council On Aging, Rec Com and others. Members asked questions and gave input into the types of spaces that would support cultural events (i.e. indoor and outdoor performance space with requisite sound and lighting equipment, indoor and outdoor gallery space, etc.)

The project in its preliminary state was presented to the BOS a few days prior to this CCC meeting. It was suggested then that the BOS form a Community Center Working Group whose mission would be to fill in financing and utilization details. No action was taken by the BOS. The consensus of the Cultural Council was to request that one of its members be appointed to the Working Group by the Selectmen, should they form this committee. Concurrently, community interest in the project is being gauged by the Master Plan project.

#### B. Community Survey

We are due to complete a community survey before the end of this fiscal year and need to start thinking about this, perhaps looking at different ways to ask questions. The primary goal is to get feedback on how the community would prioritize Cultural Council grant funding. It's also an opportunity to get feedback about Cultural Council-produced programs.

Calendar: complete community survey by end of June; needs to be ready by early May, so need nail down by April 17 meeting. Consensus was to do the survey electronically. Levitan will circulate the 2017 survey for member's review. Sagalyn will manage survey creation. Members were asked to send ideas to her in 1:1 emails.

#### C. Hidden Treasures program - Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Levitan reported that the CCC became aware of the Feb. 21 deadline to enroll a program in this year's month-long Hidden Treasures celebration after our January 24 meeting. He spoke to the program director and obtained an extension through the first week of March to allow us to potentially participate. Participating programs benefit from publicity and traffic generated by Freedom's Way.

Discussion ensued about program ideas and reaching out to other Carlisle organizations to collaborate with. Jill volunteered to reach out to Phil Drew of the Carlisle Historical Society to see if he is already participating, and would they be interested in a collaboration regardless.

#### D. FY21 State and Federal budget proposals for the arts, humanities and culture

Motion to authorize Levitan to send a letter to State Rep. Tammy Gouveia and State Sen. Mike Barrett supporting increased funding for the Mass. Cultural Council in the FY21 budget. Motion made by Levitan, second by Ponty. Approved 7-0-1.

**5. Treasurer Report** - no changes since last meeting

**6. Authorizations** - grant disbursement request

**7. Next meeting** Friday March 27, 8AM, Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Zimmerman, Mark Levitan