

May 27 2022 10:15 am

FITCHBURG CULTURAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5 p.m. THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 2022, online

In attendance: Tamar Russell Brown (co-chair), Audrey Pendleton-Chow (co-chair), Eileen Berger, Matt Bruun, Samuel Luxema, Liz Murphy, Shara Osgood, Casey Taylor, Joe Bowen (*ex officio*)

Call to Order

Tamar called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Announcements, Commendation, Stating of Mission

Tamar announced that council member Miriam Ruiz has resigned, effective Jan. 5. Tamar thanked Miriam for her service to the council.

Grantee Updates/Modifications/Extensions/Grant Updates

Tamar shared a grant modification from McKay Arts Academy, noting they were no longer able to be part of the Friends of the Abolitionist Park project (LCC-5344). McKay asked that their \$750 allocation be transferred to Longsjo Middle School (LCC-6108), which was earlier approved for funding for the project.

Grant Review/Awards

Tamar explained the council has \$48,400 to award in 2022, with 5% (\$2,420) held in reserve for administrative functions. That left \$45,980 to award for approved applications, along with \$7,154 from the previous year that was not encumbered. Therefore, there would be a total of \$53,134 available to distribute.

Tamar said capping grant requests at \$1,468 would allow all requests under that cap to be fully funded.

Audrey asked how the council should vote if Eileen and Shara - who are named as grant applicants - cannot vote on their own awards. Joe suggested a vote for the cap and structure as recommended, with separate votes on the councilors' applications where they would recuse themselves.

Joe also noted the \$750 returned from McKay Arts Academy from LCC-5344 could be presented to Longsjo as requested by the applicant, or else divided among all grantees. Eileen made a motion to preserve the \$750 and redistribute among grantees, seconded by Shara. Vote carried, 7-1 (Tamar opposed).

With 52 approved applications, and another \$750 in funds to be disbursed, the cap was adjusted to \$1,516, with the overage of \$21 applied to the Summer Concert Series (LCC-6406), which had requested \$1,550. The resulting total for that grant was \$1,537. Liz made a motion to approve the new cap, excepting the applications by Shara and Eileen, seconded by Eileen. Approval was unanimous.

Audrey made a separate motion to vote on Shara's applications - LCC-4806 and LCC-5431 - each for \$1,516, seconded by Eileen. Shara recused herself for the vote. Vote was otherwise unanimous.

Audrey made a separate motion to vote on Eileen's application - LCC-4261 - for \$1,200, seconded by Matt. Vote carried, 6-1 (Casey opposed, Eileen recused).

LCC Bylaws

Tamar noted the council is overdue to review bylaws. Casey volunteered to review the bylaws and will present the rest of the council with recommendations at the next meeting. Tamar asked council members to review the existing bylaws for discussion, reflecting the operational changes the council has undergone since the last review. This will be discussed at the council's next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Adjournment

Audrey voted to adjourn at 5:51 p.m., seconded by Eileen. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Submitted by Matt Bruun