Medway Cultural Council

Arts Planning Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

November 24, 7:00 pm

Via Zoom

Present: Becky Atwood, Kim Blenkhorn, Celeste Falcone, Gail Hachenburg, Jennifer Kendall, Judy Moffatt, Valerie Shinas, Jordan Warnick, Karyl Wong

1. Minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Culinary Project: Jordan suggested that we feature restaurants of the area online. Each would be given an opportunity to teach a recipe and to give a brief presentation about the type of food it serves. Sheldon Strasnick of the Muffin House might be interested in doing this, as would certainly others as well. Filming/broadcast support might be possible through Barry of Cable Access. He may be able to coordinate volunteers, and the question of possibly high school students in the Cable Access program? Gail asked whether we might also get support from Franklin Tri-County.
3. Artist Spotlight: Kim gave an update. She sent out information to encourage participation and will send out more. We have Judy, Rich Poolio, a painter, Tim Rice already set up. Celeste asked whether we could contact Chris Lee. That fills the calendar through March.

Library Project: Judy Moffatt reported that the coloring page which she designed has been released. It is a gingerbread house which can be colored and hung up as a December holiday decoration. The library will print it and make it available. It is also available on the Cultural Council page for download, also onthe word press website, medwayartists.wordpress.com. This will also be done for Valentine’s Day. The website link is medwayartists.wordpress.com. There was a discussion about getting items posted in the newspaper. It currently takes four weeks to put an announcement in the paper.

1. CC logo stickers/pens/marketing items: Jordan began a discussion about having such items printed for distribution to raise awareness about the Cultural Council. He won’t move forward without obtaining the original font for the logo.
2. Judy’s Pixie Gail talked to Julie Harrington about “Park Pixie Week” and got a favorable reactionJudith will apply for a grant and supplies. The technique for making the pixies is to be taught over zoom, plan is for May/June, and the pixies if approved will be displayed in Choate Park. The Council will present the idea to the Parks and Recreation Committee. It was suggested that there could also be a few Pixie houses, perhaps as part of a workshop for adults who create them without supervision. A weekend would be selected in June when viewers would be invited to see the project in the park. Perhaps this project could be repeated at Oakland at a later date.
3. Art Outside: Karyl had contacted Julie Harrington but hadn’t heard back from her. She was told she must go through the Parks and Rec Committee. She must write up guidelines to present. Gail will present them as part of a proposal to the Parks and Rec Commission in January 2021.
4. Sister Cities: Jordan has established contact with La Canada Sister Cities, but the project is temporarily shut down due to Covid, at least until after Thanksgiving.
5. Poster Project: Jordan is waiting to talk with Julie Dennehy. Perhaps this could be a project with the high school? It was decided that it would be a good thing if it were multigenerational, all age groups included.
6. Website: Kim gave an update, that she has been working on this with Jennifer. It is to be user friendly. The link is https:\\medwayartists.wordpress.com) Jen is placing a link on the Town website. Kim can make any of us enabled to edit/add content. Valerie has worked on websites before and will be working with Kim. Kim suggested we could do a training class so that several CC members could be enabled to add/update content. She also stated that we need to update the mission statement and she must check to see whether the email send button is working. Becky tried to send an email; got a reply saying it was sent but Jordan must confirm whether it was actually received. We need to change the address to medwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com Kim would like to have news about the bridges project once it gets going, and she would like to have a list of the bridge names to post. She was able to link the website with the library feed page.
7. Hand Turkey Project: Judy Moffatt gave an update. It has been decided that this is tabled for the time being.
8. Trail Bridges Project: Gail, Jennifer and Joanne gave an update. A lengthy article has appeared in the paper. The Cultural Council has appeared before the Select Board, presented the list of bridge themes and names and received approval of the process for naming and creating a festival to celebrate the trail system, with a theme/name for each of 11 wooden bridges between Choate and Lovering Street. Themes are historical, natural/scientific, musical/artistic, and are meant to educate and engage the public, create greater awareness of walker location on trails, to enrich the cultural opportunities for residents, and create greater appreciation for, awareness of, and enjoyment of our outdoor spaces. Exhibits are meant to celebrate inclusion and diversity. Select Board members were enthusiastic about benefits to safety (location awareness), cultural enrichment and increased awareness/use of open spaces. Financial support has been offered toward capital improvements (e.g., signs/displays) to add the budget CC is proposing for performances/displays. A cost estimate has been requested to be sent to Allison Potter at the Town Treasurer’s office. The range of financing discussed was around $10K, subject to approval at spring Town Meeting. It was decided that early to mid-fall 2021 would be preferable to spring 2021 (as was mentioned in the newspaper), as we must wait for Town Meeting and funding, and due to COVID. A motion was made and seconded, and the Cultural Council’s support for plans and accomplishments on this project so far was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Joanne Williams