

Concord Center Cultural District Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Town Assessor's Office - 24 Court Lane

Members present: Jerry Wedge (elected chair); Kate James, Carol Wayland, Kim Burns

Visitors: Marcia Rasmussen (Town of Concord DPLM), Mardi Hutchinson (Concord Recreation)

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. when a quorum was present.

Introductions - each person introduced themselves. Jerry noted that not all members have been appointed to the committee and people present suggested names of other Concord residents who may be interested in being appointed to the committee.

Open Meeting Law - Marcia provided a brief overview of the Open Meeting Law (posting of the agenda 48 hours in advance of a meeting, meeting in a publicly accessible space that was also handicapped accessible, general structure of meetings). She will follow up with an email providing a link to the state's web site.

Charge of the Committee - Jerry distributed copies of the Committee Charge, which those present reviewed.

Review of West Concord Junction Cultural District activities - Marcia outlined the activities of the WCJCDC over the past nine months, citing Discover West Concord Day in October (street music, tents featuring local non-profits, open studios at 152 Commonwealth Ave. and Bradford Mill), ArtWeek events in late April/early May - West Concord goes Bluegrass (ArtScramble poster and mural, Bluegrass Scramble concert at Concord Conservatory of Music, ice cream flavor at Reasons to be Cheerful and a special cocktail at Saltbox Kitchen) and the current survey and planning consultant work funded by MCC grant and DPLM.

Marcia noted that the Concord Center Cultural District had also received MCC funds and, due to MCC's requirement that funds be expended by June 30th and there being no formal committee, a consultant was being hired to develop a plan to market and promote the Town of Concord and its cultural districts to year-round local, national and international audiences.

Discussion of Committee 's Work - Jerry noted his list of efforts underway in Concord Center that could be used to spring-board or piggy-back other efforts, which include:

- Jazz Fest (this year June 8th)
- Earth Day (end of April - this year April 27th)
- ArtWalk (last year held in August)
- ArtWeek (the Statewide cultural effort to engage people in creative activities)

Jerry then noted there have been discussions in the past about the potential to launch a Concord Film Festival noting the variety of locations that could host such an activity and the creative people creating film in Concord. Kate noted that Somerville and Arlington already hosted film festivals. There was general discussion about the various artists locally who might contribute to such an event. The group brainstormed possible locations: Middlesex School, Fenn School, Concord Academy, 51 Walden, The Umbrella, Concord-Carlisle High School, etc.

Jerry asked what other resources may be needed and what other groups should be involved in this discussion. This topic would be discussed in greater depth at the next meeting.

Researching other Cultural Districts (per the charge) - Marcia suggested that the committee members focus on those Cultural District communities that already host film festivals as a starting point and a way to gather ideas. Kate and Kim volunteered to identify a list of such communities and Jerry agreed to research venues/locations for viewing films.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 at 9:00 a.m. Marcia will confirm that the Assessor's office conference room is available and will invite the MCC grant consultant to attend the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Rasmussen