



MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk of Concord (CCC), a meeting of the Concord Cultural Council was held in the Lower Conference Room of the Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street on November 16, 2023.

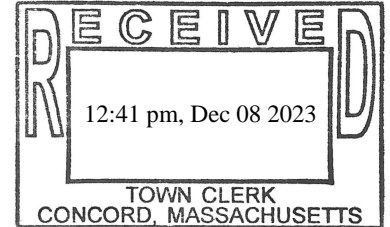
Present: Amy Beamer, Betsy Levinson, Ha Richmond, Tooley Rogers, Hilary Taylor, Anita Tekle

Absent: Robert Gross

Call to Order: 6:03 pm, Chair Betsy Levinson called the meeting to order

Approved the minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting

Initial Review of Grant Requests



Happily noshing on delectable nuts and chocolates from Graem in Concord - provided by Hilary, members dug into the grant applications with Betsy at the helm, easing us through our discussion. Bob, who knew he would miss this meeting, had provided us with his assessments – using a 1-3 ranking system - very helpful. Anita had printed out a meticulously detailed 8½”x14” spreadsheet (for each member) of all 48 grant applications. Members used this to check and establish allocation amounts for each grant. Without doubt this enabled us to adjourn our meeting on time. Amy kept track of the dollar amounts to ensure that we did not go over budget, gently reminding members, at times, of that constraint. Spirited discussions ended with a final consensus, and Amy said she would send out the final numbers in the ensuing weeks, (which she did.)

Anita had conversed with Guelmi Espinal, Program Officer for the MCC, about the five grant applications that were not completed correctly, and was informed that the members of CCC were empowered to make decisions on grants as deemed appropriate.

Grantee Reception

Members agreed with Betsy to set aside \$500 for the reception. Members discussed logistics – food, location, invitations.

Additional Funding

Betsy will continue to pursue acquiring additional CCC funding with the Town Accountant.

Upcoming Meetings

The following date was agreed upon for what may be our final Fall 2023 meeting:

- Thursday, December 6, 6:00 pm

Betsy will reserve a room for the meetings and confirm the location with the group.

Respectfully submitted,

Tooley Rogers
Clerk to the Concord Cultural Council

Forgetfulness

By Billy Collins

The name of the author is the first to go
followed obediently by the title, the plot,
the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel
which suddenly becomes one you have never read,
never even heard of,

as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor
decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain,
to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine Muses goodbye
and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag,
and even now as you memorize the order of the planets,

something else is slipping away, a state flower perhaps,
the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember,
it is not poised on the tip of your tongue,
not even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river
whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall,
well on your own way to oblivion where you will join those
who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.

No wonder you rise in the middle of the night
to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war.
No wonder the moon in the window seems to have drifted
out of a love poem that you used to know by heart.