

## South Hadley Cultural Council

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Via Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82200438466?pwd=S2x3Y054bmx4VktBSGhjTWNtMDQ2QT09>

### MINUTES

In attendance: John Anz, Ira Brezinsky, Mary Anne Myers, Gerry de Berly, David Solender, Caroline Martin, Joy Jarne

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm once a quorum was established.

1. Members voted to approve the minutes from meeting on September 6, 2023
2. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer (Ira) is working on the report to MCC due Oct. 17. No new transactions occurred since the last meeting. The \$2000 grant from the reserve fund that had been approved for Showcase South Hadley has not yet been paid out; it may go to a specific vendor or to Music and Arts South Hadley (MASH), the 501 c (3) which served as fiscal conduit for the event. A full Treasurer's Report will be presented at the next meeting
3. Outstanding paperwork from 2023 grant cycle
  - a. The Council voted to approve reinstatement of the \$150 grant from the reserve fund to Music for the Soul by the O-Tones, responding to Mary Witt's request and notice that the concert will take place at the Senior Center on December 20, 2023. The grantee had originally declined the funds because they had not yet secured a venue.
  - b. The grant acceptance paperwork has still not arrived for the Sector Recovery Gathering (Dee Boyle-Clapp, \$750) and The Fairy Festival (Cat Milo Keatinge Bezark, \$500), despite several efforts to obtain it or have the grantee request an extension. Ira will check to see how long the Council needs to keep these funds available.
4. Update on Showcase South Hadley: Oct. 7-9, 2023  
John and Ira reported that the event went well in terms of operations. Mount Holyoke College was recognized with thanks for providing at minimal cost the venues that allowed the outside events to be moved indoors due to the rain on Saturday. Saturday attendance was not what it might have been had the weather been better, but artists were happy to participate on both days. Audiences were wide-ranging in terms of demographics. The Steering Committee has a debrief meeting scheduled for October 16, but the event was deemed a good first effort with lessons learned and a positive response overall. A more detailed report will follow.
5. FY 2024 grant cycle
  - a. Deadline for Grant applications is October 17 at 11:59 PM. Advertisements on social media will continue until then.
  - b. The Council will have to decide whether to reserve 5% of the allocation for administrative expenses as the MCC allows, as well as how the Showcase might apply for 2024 funding as a "council-initiated project" or through a grant to MASH.
  - c. Council members were encouraged to use the published Council priorities and guidelines as a rubric for evaluating grant applications.
6. Use of SHCC local / reserve fund for 2024: The Council will strive to program these funds as soon as

possible with the goal of spending down the reserve, which will be approximately \$3000 after the grant to Showcase South Hadley.

7. Recruiting new members: Eric Weiss has been interviewed by the Selectboard, and Olive Rowell will be interviewed at an October meeting.
8. Other business
  - a. Joy raised the question of factors that might affect our future MCC allocations. (The answer from MCC is that the allocation is based on population and state formulas rather use of funds.)
  - b. A question was raised about guidelines for youth members, which Mary Anne agreed to research.
9. The next meeting to approve the grant applications was set for November 8, 2023, at 6:00 pm. The provisional date for the next meeting would be Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, though the schedule may depend on how long the grant decisions take.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Myers  
November 3, 2023