

**Franklin Cultural District Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 15, 2022
Held as a Virtual Meeting
via Remote Access Zoom Platform**

As stated on the agenda, due to the continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was conducted as a Remote/Virtual Cultural District Committee meeting. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens were able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number or participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda.

Members present: Roberta Trahan, Dr. Pandora Carlucci, Amy Adams, Vice Chair John LoPresti

Members absent: Katherine Botelho

Also in attendance: Bryan Taberner, Planning and Community Development Director; Alan Earls, Guest

Upon achieving quorum with the required minimum of members present, Ms. Trahan opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Carlucci motioned to approve the August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Adams. Ms. Trahan voted Ms. Adams voted yes. Vice Chair LoPresti voted yes. Dr. Carlucci voted yes. Motion to accept passed 4-0-0

New Committee Members

Vice Chair LoPresti reported that no volunteers had responded to the ad posted by the Town, so the follow-up will be to advertise on Franklin Matters with Stephen Sherlock. Vice Chair LoPresti added that discussing the importance and excitement of working on the Cultural District could help with finding interested candidates. Dr. Carlucci said she would make the ad for volunteers more prominent in upcoming publications.

Cultural Wednesdays

Dr. Carlucci informed the Committee that readership is increasing as well as submittals from organizations to have be published in the Cultural Wednesdays Newsletter. She cited the more frequent smaller postings as being responsible because they are easy for Partners to write and readers to consume. Ms. Trahan and Vice Chair LoPresti put forward the idea of having all Committee members learn to use the website and post for Cultural Wednesdays, so that it would stay up to date if Dr. Carlucci is ever unable to maintain it. Dr. Carlucci agreed with this plan, and the Committee agreed to put the proposal on a future agenda.

Cultural Festival: September 10, 2022

Ms. Trahan and Vice Chair LoPresti expressed agreement with previous sentiments on Ms. Adams' work and art during the Festival being very impressive. Ms. Trahan said the attendance was also impressive, and that Kaye Kelly had estimated about 10,000 people attended throughout the day. Dr. Carlucci said she thought the Cultural Lane helped people to put faces

to the Partners and organizations that they hear about, and thus become enthusiastic about the arts and culture that went on at the Festival. Dr. Carlucci and Ms. Trahan said they had heard from the Partners and attending businesses that the Festival brought good increases in business to them. Ms. Trahan thanked Mr. Taberner from the Department of Planning and Community Development for the supplies and help that were contributed to the event, and then concluded the discussion by adding that a substantial amount of new readers had signed up for the Newsletter in the time since the Festival.

Harvest Festival: October 1, 2022

Ms. Trahan told the Committee that their planning for the Harvest Festival has been completed and they are ready to go. The Committee will share a booth with the Franklin Downtown Partnership and basically repeat what it brought in last year's Harvest Festival. The Committee then sorted out who would be working at the booth and at what times.

Cultural Council Grant Challenge

Dr. Carlucci briefed the Committee on the Grant Challenge that is issued every fall by the Cultural Council, and that \$1200 had been awarded to the Committee last year. Dr. Carlucci said she believed the Committee should apply again this year, and the deadline is October 15. Mr. Taberner said he believed the MCC Check-In meetings would be resuming soon, to which Ms. Trahan said the first one had already happened and she and Dr. Carlucci had attended it. Ms. Trahan said she would be attending the next one on September 21 as well. The Committee then discussed some options they had looked into for the Grant already, including a trolley tour of historical sites and Partners, or a performance during ArtWALK. The Committee continued to discuss ideas that the Grant could be used for, with Dr. Carlucci recommending they also ask the Partners for ideas. Ms. Trahan then noted that she and Dr. Carlucci have continued to collaborate with Kaye Kelly and made closer ties with the Cultural Council, whose help they are grateful for, and there will be further collaboration and cooperation going forward.

Massachusetts Cultural Council Visit and Partners on October 20

The Committee discussed the need to find transportation for a tour, as well as a carefully balanced amount of stops and visits to show the entire Cultural District but not occupy too much of the MCC's time. Mr. Taberner and Ms. Trahan agreed that they would meet some time in the future and draft a schedule for the tour that they will eventually set up.

Next Cultural District Meeting Dates

October 20, 2022 7:00 PM

November 10, 2022 7:00 PM

Cultural District Partners Meeting

October 20, 2022 3:00 PM

Additional Comments

Ms. Trahan and Dr. Carlucci discussed possibly having the October 20 Partners Meeting continue after MCC leaves so that any remaining topics can be discussed in depth, with Ms. Trahan concluding that she and Mr. Taberner would discuss the matter at a later date. Ms. Trahan then moved on to inform the Committee that they have been offered some space in the storage space of the Franklin Cultural Council in the Municipal Building. Ms. Trahan continued by saying that, upon confirmation with Town Administration that the storage space has been allotted to the Franklin Cultural Council and Cultural District Committee, they will begin moving

their supplies to the new storage room. That way, it will be easier for Committee members to access their supplies when they need to pick them up or drop them off. Vice Chair LoPresti told the Committee that he would be working on placing an order for more canvas bags with the Committee's logo.

Ms. Trahan motioned to authorize Vice Chair LoPresti to seek out pricing for as many canvas bags as he can order without exceeding \$1500. Seconded by Vice Chair LoPresti. Dr. Carlucci voted yes. Ms. Adams voted yes. Vice Chair LoPresti voted yes. Ms. Trahan voted yes. Motion to authorize passed 4-0-0

Vice Chair LoPresti said he would also be working with manufacturers on placemats with the Cultural District map on them to provide to Partners and restaurants, and he would make sure to keep the Committee involved in the process before any design or order is submitted.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Paslaski
Administrative Assistant