

Marblehead Cultural Council March 2025 Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Abbot Library, Marblehead Room #304

Meeting Type: In-Person with Greg Torrales, Regional Program Officer calling in

Attendees:

Jennifer Uhl, Chair

Jeanie Stahl, Co-Chair

Aaron Liber, Secretary

Jim Murphy, Treasurer

Kathy Barker

Joe Dipoli

Rose Gould

Alex MacAaron

Marjorie Norman

Lisa Seltzer

Not Attending:

Mark Philip

Meeting called to order; Land Acknowledgement read; Reading of minutes of last meeting waived.

Treasurer's Report with Status of Grantees:

The \$8k grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council has been received and deposited into the Marblehead Cultural Council account. Currently the Town's Assistant Accountant, who is our point of contact at the Marblehead Accounting Office, is on Medical Leave. As a result, we have been asked to holdoff if we can and only forward our more urgent reimbursement requests. Since we have not yet received any completed reimbursement materials from our grantees, that is not a problem. However, two grantees – Social Fabric (\$500) and SPUR'S MLK Day of Service (\$500) - have completed their projects and are currently in the process of sending in hardcopies of their paperwork. Chris Holak, Town Accountant, has indicated that he will be able to process our grantee reimbursements for us in a timely manner once those do come in – as those are a priority. Two January reimbursements for our PO Box which is now \$236/year as well as the reimbursement of \$70 for our domain registration and website hosting can easily wait for now, again not a problem. Our total account spending currently pending is \$1306 which includes \$1000 for grant reimbursements and \$306 in Administrative Costs. Our total allowed budget of \$400 (5% of 8k) for Administrative Costs has \$96 remaining which will be needed in full for the printing costs of the Survey QR code postcards. There are no funds available for the grantee reception.

Updates from liaisons include information such as The Frank Sinatra program will be this Saturday night and \$25; Headers in the Revolution will be September 20 and 21; Live Music Making History Live with John Waterman will be August 10 at 2pm (Jim liaison to all three grantees); The Colonial Craft Fair will be September 24 (Kathy); The STEAM workshops will be for 1-3rd graders all on Tuesdays, May 6 and May 27, 4-5ish (coastal habitat and animal adaptation) and July 15 (focus TBD); 2 more dates in Fall as well, all in the Makerspace at the library (Jen); For the Slave Economy Joe is working on his presentation and negotiating with the COA for space (Rose.)

On-line Communication Update:

Group discussed the possibility of creating a Webmaster board position. In the past the Massachusetts Cultural Council has suggested that LCC's consider this additional position specifically as well as a few others. (The bare minimum is that a vote on Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are required annually of all LCC's.) This would be so someone who could keep our website up to date, perform real time edits during council meetings and help with knowledge of hybrid meetings if implemented as well as other on-line related things. This person could also serve as the Lead for a Sub-quorum of others who post the surveys as well as our Instagram and Facebook administrators.

2025 Community Input Survey Plan:

Our Community Survey Sub-quorum includes Jeanie, Joe, and Marjorie (Aaron also an adjunct for QR the code). The Sub-quorum will meet next week to edit survey. The Survey Draft latest iteration will then be emailed to the Council, only for preview. At our next meeting on April 30, all discussion and any comments will be made in the public forum. Jeanie is the Sub-quorum Lead and will go to Jackie Lynch's Consortium group lunch this Friday for survey feedback and suggestions from any Community group representatives there. Survey launch will be May 12 and end July 15. It will be included in the Marblehead Festival of Arts program (gratis). Rose volunteered to analyze the data. MAA (Jim) will print out QR code on sheets at their sites. Rose or Aaron can design the QR code with central image.

Discussion of Hybrid Meetings:

All Marblehead Board and Committee meetings must be either hybrid, Zoom, or in-person, ideally accessible to all. Zoom or Hybrid meetings provide the highest level of accessibility. In 2023, warrant #52 passed at the Marblehead Annual Town meeting to *urge* use of hybrid meetings. This was not a mandate. The following is from Marblehead Annual Town Meeting Minutes, May 1-3, 2023 and includes two relevant warrants passing:

"Article 51 Amend Town Bylaws Relative to Require Certain Boards/Committees to record and post meeting minutes. Voted: To urge All Board and Committee which are subject to the Open Meeting Law to make their best efforts to produce a recording of their meeting available to the public and link through the Town Website. The recording could be a video capture, a transcript, a sound recording or other. (This is an urging; the Bylaw was not amended.)

Article 52 Amend Town Bylaws Relative to 940 CMZR 29.10 of Open Meeting Law. Voted: To urge the Select Board to Recommend that all Town Boards and Committees subject to the Open Meeting Law to make their best efforts to provide a hybrid or remote option for attendance to both members and public. (This is an urging; the Bylaw was not amended.)"

Not all Marblehead town committees have hybrid meetings. Our town pays for the Zoom account we would use. All video recordings are stored in the Cloud, but can be made public through the Select Board's Office with any request. An announcement regarding remote meeting changes (if any) will be made by Governor Healy before March 31. Discussion about logistics needed for Zoom, this issue of needing someone to run the remote meeting remains, for example, how will the public chime in on-line? The group will vote on a Motion for Hybrid meetings going forward at our next Meeting.

Feedback to Local Cultural Council Program Officer:

Aaron patched Greg Torrales in via his Google Meets at 7pm. Greg was looking for changes and/or suggestions to LCC programming. Our group asked him whether smaller communities should have different guidelines than larger communities? Also asked if the survey needed to be done every year especially for small communities? Greg was informed that our administrative costs barely cover what is required and funds cannot be used for the grantee reception. Greg's team is currently discussing all of

this. There may be positive changes in the future. He also informed the group when asked that relatively little of the money local cultural councils receive is federally funded, in fact it is \$2M of the total \$26M budget. FY25 funds are all set OK; FY26 is unknown.

Adjournment, Next Meeting Wednesday, April 30, Abbot Library:

6:30-8pm in the Marblehead Room, 3rd floor of Library. Adjournment 8pm

While leaving, Council Members enjoyed viewing the four new floral paintings by Olesea Fiodorova, the final project from one of last year's grantees, now hung on the wall abutting the Marblehead Room.

Meeting minutes compiled by Marjorie Norman; edited by Jen Uhl.