

Marblehead Cultural Council October 2025 Meeting Minutes
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October 22, 2025

6:30 pm

Abbot Library, Marblehead Room #304

Meeting Type: Hybrid

Attendees:

Jeanie Stahl, Chair

Aaron Liber, Co-Chair

Katherine Barker, Co-Chair

Jim Murphy, Treasurer (Remote)

Marjorie Norman, Secretary

Joseph Dipoli

Alex MacAaron (Remote)

Steve McClure

Jennifer Uhl

Not Attending:

Mark Philip

Chair called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Abbreviated version of Land Acknowledgement read. (Available under “Other” at MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org.)

New Member Welcome

Steve McClure

Liaison Grantee Status:

Co-Chair distributed and reviewed list of current Grantees, Liaisons, events/projects, and reimbursement status in a spreadsheet. Liaisons (Aaron and Jim) will continue to remind Grantees they are monitoring to submit for reimbursement via USPS in a timely manner. Programs still scheduled to be held before the end of the year are “The 80s Comedy Boom: A Boston Comedy History”, “Live Music Making History Live”, and “The Slave Economy in Essex County and New England” in addition to “Meet Julia Child” referenced in the following paragraph.

Fran Baron (“Mangia, Meatballs and Murder”) requested a change to both her play and venue as the CoA was no longer able to accommodate. She proposed a new play, “Meet Julia Child”, which would take place Dec 11, at 1pm at Abbot Public Library. Discussion regarding pros and cons ensued, followed by a motion.

Motion: Propose to accept Fran Baron’s change of program and venue and request a revised budget.

Vote: 5 in favor/4 against - Motion passed

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Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer distributed and reviewed a summary of the 2026 Budget. State funding for the 2026 cycle is \$8000. Additional funds to be allocated for grants are from unused administrative expenses and interest income and other funds available from the MCC's town account resulting in a total allocation of \$9575.

Motion: Propose to allocate 5% (\$400) for administrative costs

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Review of Evaluation Form for Grant Applications

Kathy, Marjorie and Jeanie had reviewed the State's Grant Evaluation Form that uses a 1-5 unweighted scoring system and agreed that it was a good starting point. A few criteria were added to better reflect Marblehead's specific Priorities and Guidelines. Although previous year's voting discussions have been robust and the process efficient, using a numerical score card will provide a more standardized process and greater transparency into decision-making.

Kathy will create a spreadsheet for Council members who will then review applications in the Panel Book and submit their ratings to Kathy no later than December 1st. Kathy will tally the data in preparation for the December 10th application voting meeting.

Motion: Propose to accept using the Evaluation Form as written and presented.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

New Banner Update

Discussed the purchase of a new banner as the old one is worn that would be used at various events throughout the year. Cost at Staples ~\$100 (possibly less) Decision to wait on purchase to ensure we have sufficient funds available to cover fixed and other annual costs.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2025, 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Abbot Public Library.

Meeting minutes compiled by Marjorie Norman and edited by Jeanie Stahl.