

Chelmsford Cultural Council

Minutes from the Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 meeting @Chelmsford Center for the Arts

The meeting started @7:15pm. The Cultural Council welcomed several guests: the Chelmsford Public Library Director, Becky Herrmann and one of her Trustees, David Braslau, a Boy Scout working on his communication badge and another student who was working on a project for college where she had to observe a town committee.

Agenda

- 1. Approve Minutes** – the minutes for the January 8th, 2019 meeting were approved.
- 2. Discussion with library director, trustee** – the Treasurer agreed to let the library director and trustee switch positions on the agenda with him
 - a. The library director and trustee spoke about how they are working on their strategic plan and they are focusing on outreach to the community. As such, they have been visiting many of the town organizations and committees to let them know how the library can help them. The Cultural Council was given a “Resources for the Cultural Council” sheet that listed how they could possibly help the Cultural Council. In addition, they asked the Cultural Council if they had any additional ideas to add to the list. The Council members thanked the library director and trustee and said that they were already working together on several fronts and that they really appreciated the collaborative relationship the two groups had.
 - b. The library director also spoke about an idea that came out of surveys about what the people in Chelmsford wanted from the library. A Pop-Up Library was one of the results of these surveys. The library already has raised about 33k for it and asked if we ever had extra funds, they would be appreciative of anything we can donate towards this or other projects that benefit the town. The members of the Cultural Council said that there are sometimes funds left at the end of the year that we could possibly donate to the library fund and that we would keep the library in mind for these funds.
- 3. Treasurer’s Report** – John said that the annual report to the MA Cultural Council State Office has now been completed. He will have the complete detailed report for the year in April’s meeting. Sue mentioned to our guests that this was one of two annual reports that we have to do for the Cultural Council....one is financial for the state and the other one

which Sue does is due in August to the Town of Chelmsford. This annual report is more of a general report for the year.

4. **Grants Update** – nothing new to report on the grants for this year
5. **MA Cultural Council annual report** – was covered in the Treasurer’s Report
6. **Photo Contest Update** – The members discussed how the photo contest went well with lots of people showing up to view the photos. The winners for 2019 were:
STUDENT: 1st Place - Lily Daigle, “Still Life with Boots, Chelmsford”, 2nd Place - Kenneth Damon, “Iceland Mountains Landscape”, 3rd Place - Gabe Weber, “Sunflower, Shelburne Falls, MA”
AMATEUR: 1st Place - Dan Colucci, “Autumn Waterfall, Nashua, NH”, 2nd Place - Patrick Doherty, “City Scene with Wedding Dress”, 3rd Place – Felicity Hileman, “Bund, Shanghai, China”, 1st Honorable Mention – Christy Vercauteren, “My Son Looking Through Ice”, 2nd Honorable Mention – Anne Whitaker, “Butterfly, Concord, MA”, 3rd Honorable Mention – Stephen Byer, “Milky Way Over Martha’s Vineyard”
PROFESSIONAL: 1st Place – Mike Weinhold, “Dog Peering Through Red Leaves”, 2nd Place – David McCuin, “Portrait”, 3rd Place – Lee Fortier, “Pastel Mountain View and Chairs”, 1st Honorable Mention – Bruce Magnuson, “School Street, Chelmsford”, 2nd Honorable Mention – Lee Fortier, ‘Rabbit’

Suggestions for next year’s photo contest were:

- a. The library staff suggested putting the names of the winners on the backs of the ribbons they won so in case the picture and the ribbon were separated they would know what ribbon was associated with what picture.
- b. We need to improve the picture hanging system. The library staff should not have to be constantly rehangng pictures....see Brian at the library for suggestions for a better hanging system
- c. Labels for pictures cannot be put directly on plaster walls. Some people came along and not only took their picture but also took the label and when they did, they ripped the plaster or paint off the wall. If people had done this slowly then they wouldn’t have done damage to the wall but next year we need to find another way to attach the labels to the walls without causing this kind of damage.
- d. Develop a checklist of things to do for the photo contest including what to do ahead of time well before the contest takes place....ie hiring a band
- e. Instead of hiring a professional band for entertainment we should consider hiring some high school musicians who would play for us for 2 hours
- f. Proofread the publicity for the photo contest ahead of time. This year we had a poster announcing the contest that had 2 different deadlines. This caused confusion and one person’s entry was turned away because the library staff was confused over the real deadline.
- g. Have a digital photo contest too.
- h. Bring back the People’s Choice Awards which we’ve done in past years.

7. **Website, Facebook Update** – John is working on updating our website. Facebook has been updated with pictures of our photo contest
8. **Other** – Sue will be attending the Volunteer Fair to be held on March 23rd @ the Senior Center to represent the Cultural Council.
 - a. Sue will call and remind the remaining people who have still not picked up their pictures from the photo contest

The meeting was adjourned @8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jefferson

Cultural Council Secretary