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By City Clerk at 9:46 am, Apr 08, 2026



Date and Time: March 3, 2026 at 6:30pm

Location: Cultural Center, 37 Millyard, Gallery Unit, Amesbury, MA 01913

CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 - AJ

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Ann Johnson (AJ), Margaret (ML), Amy Vander Els (AV), Bonnie Brady (BB), Laura Schofield (LS), Bailey Campbell (BC)

Members Not Present: Rachel Wallace (RW), Bryan Riley (BR), Sally Nutt (SN), Kristen Costa (KC), Joanne Barnes (JB)

MEETING MINUTES - 6:31 - AJ

Vote: Approve January 6 minutes - BB motion, BC second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

We received several thank you notes for grants

TREASURER REPORT - 6:33 - AJ

-Gifts account: \$20,565 (~\$18,000 available b/c encumbered funds)

-Grants account: \$7,225 = have paid out \$5,375 so far

GRANTS REPORT - 6:34 - AJ

-MCC Creative Experiences grant is open 3/3 - applied last year for \$5,000, denied; will apply again for \$2,500

- BB - We could apply on behalf of the Cultural Council (CC) for future events; for \$5,000 we could get expensive supplies
- AJ - I believe we were denied due to a lack of diversity/DEI initiatives within Open Studios - feedback said we were denied due to lack of BIPOC-centered programming and a history of past funding (\$2,500 multiple times)
- BB - We could also apply for one grant to fund multiple experiences: Juneteenth, social justice programming at The Center - that would diversify our offerings

-Grant reception is March 24th at Cultural Center, 5-7pm

- AJ - Everyone bring a dish and bottle of wine/beer/seltzer
- AV - We should have a visual about the grants program
- BB - Could get a projector, show a slideshow
- AJ - Will reach out to grant recipients for images of their projects

-Still need to schedule meetings with Lindsay Haight re: fundraising for Open Studios

MARKETING REPORT - 6:44 - BC

-Advertising grant reception

-Trying to think ahead re: the Chamber Merchant newspaper - next deadline is April 15, goes to print May 1

- AV - They are trying to move away from ad-heavy to more articles
- BB - Could announce the opening of the CC; by then we'll have the link for people to book the space

-Will work on a rough draft of our "no AI" statement for Open Studios, Art@City Hall, etc.

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 6:52 - BB

-Proposal has been updated for use of the space

-We will receive free cleaning every week from the City's contractors until the end of June; have requested to continue to be on the contract after that

-CC scheduling calendar is open - only ACC and Library emails can access; Victoria will log every scheduling request; people will request via form

-\$25/hour rental fee to start, minimum half day (\$100)

-Proposal includes a statement about being a good neighbor to condo residents; request form will include guidelines; BB will inform condo president when there are big events

- BC - Could offer free rentals/admission to Card to Culture holders; great for future grant applications

-Can now advertise the availability of the space

Vote: Accept v1 Cultural Center proposal - BC motion, AJ second, unanimous

AV:

-We've been talking about having regular programming - speakers, panels, Q&As, etc. - have a number of topics in mind:

- Pricing your artwork
- The business of art
- Grant writing
- Social media, marketing
- Taxes/finances

- Markets 101
- Photographing your artwork
- Writing artist statements
- “How to use the CC” could be the first topic

-Anyone from the ACC can coordinate a workshop

-We want to pay people for their time - could give them the option to donate it to the ACC; could set aside a budget per year

- BB - We want these sessions to be free to start
- LS - Could give speakers “in kind” compensation - free rentals of the CC

Vote: Put aside \$500 budget for speaker fees for Cultural Center programming - BC motions, BB second, unanimous

-Re: Gallery shows - how would they actually run? Thinking of month-long shows, pop-up/single night shows, Open Studios previews, etc.

-It could be up to the artists to set the hours for their show, not the ACC; they would deal with payment, etc.

- BB - We would assign gallery sitters, weekend open hours

-Looking at hanging system options; we measured the CC walls; 14 rails at \$39/rail, wires \$4/ea, \$100 shipping from Oregon = ~\$800 total

Vote: Spend up to \$1,000 on hanging system supplies for Cultural Center - BB motions, AV second, unanimous

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:37 - AJ

Vote: Submit \$200 trolley deposit for Open Studios - AV motion, BC second, unanimous

ART @ CITY HALL

N/a

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:38

-BC: Idea for a spring/summer project - Would be really cool to install a crowd-sourced mural (“face contour” portraits) on a public window

- Need to seek building owner permission

-AV: Builders of the new building at the old ComSat location are interested in a mural

-BC: Survey responses ask for the crosswalks to be redone

-AJ: The Pride stairs in the Upper Millyard also need to be redone

POET LAUREATE REPORT

N/a

DISCUSS CORE VALUES FOR THE ACC - move to next meeting

DISCUSS GOALS FOR 2026 - move to next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

N/a

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

N/a

REVIEW UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 24, 5-7pm, grant reception and artist mixer

Adjourn - 8:03 - AJ motions, AV seconds, unanimous

Signed: Margaret Leahy 4/7/26