

Minutes of
Benton County Cultural Coalition

January 20, 2005, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Room, Philomath Community Library, Philomath

Present: Susan Johnson (chair), Zel Brook, May Dasch, Walter Frankel, Kathy Jederlinich, Wendy Madar, Micki Reaman, Mary Rounds, Court Smith, Marilyn Stewart, George Wisner

Excused: Kathryn Burton, Paula Krane, Diane Tarter, Rick Wallace

Susan Johnson called the meeting to order. She passed around some ideas for a logo for the Benton County Cultural Coalition for reaction and decision. She also passed around the post card which was going out to requests letters of intent for grant proposals.

Susan then introduced new members: Wendy Madar, who will work with the Grants Committee, and Court Smith, who will work with the Public Relations Committee.

Micki Reaman reported on the web site. She and Rick Wallace had met with Chris Ireland, who agreed to design and get it up quickly with the essentials for the grant cycle. Peak.org has agreed to host the site free of charge, as they do for registered non-profits. Micki asked members to indicate their choice of telephone or e-mail contact listing for the web site. It was agreed that there should be more original art on the site and that there should be an e-mail "Contact Us" option.

Wendy Madar reported on the grants process in the absence of Paula Krane. It had been decided that projects that involved children and partnerships would be given priority. It was not possible to project numbers of proposals or size of grants at this point. The Coalition would receive, discuss, and approve the Grants Committee awards at a plenary meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2005. Announcement and distribution of funds would be in the first week of May.

George Wisner reported that he, May Dasch, and Kathy Jederlinich had identified and verified more than 200 groups which would receive the post card asking for letters of intent. Marilyn Stewart volunteered to turn this list into a workable database for the future. Court Smith indicated that he would check with both the County and City of Corvallis to see what databases of groups they have.

Susan reported on the precarious position of the Oregon Cultural Trust during this biennium. She also indicated that the new Trust Manager, Scott Palmer, has resigned and taken a position with OSU Foundation.

Susan indicated that she had gotten two press releases into the Gazette-Times, one on the election of officers and the other on Oregon Cultural Trust activity. She had also twice

placed an advertisement for the Trust in this paper. She indicated that there remained a need to get the word out to accountants and other financial advisors.

Walter Frankel said there had been no financial activity, and that he had failed to request our fiscal agent to produce a report for this meeting.

Susan asked for two volunteers to work with Zel Brook on the Nominating Committee. Individuals whose term expires at the end of June 2005 were asked to consider whether they would remain on the Coalition.

Announcements were made. Zel Brook indicated that she had a show in Eugene; Micki Reaman stated that the Eugene Weekly would do a quarterly issue devoted to Corvallis; Susan Johnson encouraged members to see the basket show at ArtCentric.

A discussion of "culture" followed. (Notes on this are attached as an Appendix, so that members can correct, edit, or expand their remarks.)

It was determined that there should be a meeting on March 17, 2005, in the meeting room of the Majestic Theater, Corvallis. Discussion point would be the Oregon Cultural Trust and its future, and the future direction of the Benton County Cultural Coalition.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter A. Frankel
Secretary/Treasurer

Appended: Discussion of "Culture"

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Discussion of "Culture"

Note: Wendy Madar was excused before discussion began.

Susan Johnson, as an artist, spoke of the artist's culture in the community. She stressed the importance of the contact of artist's with one another, particularly at openings at Art/Centric and Pegasus Gallery. She spoke of Bill Shumway's importance in making this happen.

Zel Brook indicated that culture is all encompassing, and that to define it is to limit it.

May Dasch said the historic heritage of the two colleges in Philomath was at the center of her concerns and work.

Court Smith spoke of the creativity of our local culture and how it brought a vitality, vibrancy, and viability to our community.

Kathy Jederlinich hoped that we would leave "something other than computers as our legacy" and indicated the importance of design and color in her definition.

Marilyn Stewart had sought some ideas on the internet and defined culture as the "way of life of a people, the shared values & goals of a group, and what people have to offer."

Mary Rounds spoke further of places for people coming together, as well as preservation of the past.

George Wisner embraced Marilyn's definitions, indicating that culture covers a variety of activities, with not precise definition. He likened culture to the reporter's adage, "News is whatever the editor says it is."

Micki Reaman feels the need for building among and between "cultures," an expressed goal of the Coalition, as well as creating opportunities for youth to express themselves.

Walter Frankel spoke of drawing nourishment from a variety of culture activities and endeavors, which invigorated him, and allowed him to go out and give back to society.