

Benton County Cultural Coalition Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2006
Benton County Historical Museum, Philomath, 4:00 pm

Members Present: Kathryn Burton, Karyle Butcher, May Dasch, Walter Frankel, Susan Johnson, Joe Malango, Sara Swanberg, Ann Schirado, Ann Staley, Rick Wallace

Member absent: Diane Tarter

Members Excused: Ilona Haines, Stefani McRae-Dickey, Court Smith

A. Call to order

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the 9/12/06 meeting were approved as written.

C. Treasurer's report

Susan reported Revenues: \$10,413.57; Expenses to date: \$852.59 (\$90.63 grant letters of intent mailing; Fall Festival Information booth \$201, bookmark \$402) Balance \$9560.98

D. Grants Process Report

Twenty organizations sent in letters of intent. The Grants Committee (Ann Staley, Karyle, May, Joe, Diane) declined 5 of the letters and invited 15 organizations to send in full proposals. Each committee member talked about one letter that was memorable. Over \$10,400 has been requested. We have \$7,500 (90% of our OTC '06/'07 funds) to distribute.

E. Old Business

1. Fall Festival Recap

Susan reported that BCCC sponsorship and organization of Fall Festival's Arts Information Tent went well. Twenty-three organizations (including school districts) were invited to participate. Thirteen groups including OCT and BCCC chose to do so. Most of the visitors to the site were newcomers to the community. Susan passed out a summary of comments about the booth: the good things, the complaints, and comments for improvements. Committee members added additional comments. They recommended that the tent be larger and that we record the event with photographs. The evaluation will be shared with Fall Festival and next year's organizers.

BCCC is interested in again organizing this tent for Fall Festival and is seeking a person to coordinate this project. Susan says most of the work was done through e-mail and that she has a notebook describing the process she used.

F. New Business

1. County Cultural Summit

Walter discussed his concept for a county cultural summit sponsored by BCCC. Our goal would be to increase OCT and BCCC's visibility, bring cultural groups together, and present some kind of training that would benefit these groups. The discussion for a topic to present moved from board development, to

collaborations, to grant writing. Karyle and Ann Schirado said that their busy board members would probably not be interested in such a summit, particularly an all day event. Groups with staff have different needs from those that are totally volunteer run.

The members decided that we should contact organizations and survey them, asking to list the three most important needs (beside funds) that would make their organization more successful. Using this information we could have the groups come together to address these needs. Maybe each group could give a 10 -minute talk about their organization. This survey would also help us review our cultural plan.

G. Discussion - quotation and/or definition concerning culture (arts, heritage, humanities)-See the supplement to these minutes.

H. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Johnson

Discussion: What is Culture?

1. "Encoding Memory" (Yo-Yo Ma)
2. "More that half of modern culture depends on what should not read."(Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*)
3. "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." (Winston Churchill on Volunteerism)
4. Culture is a mix of innovation and exploration.
5. Culture is what we do, what we think, and how we act.
6. "You must never forget that art (substitute culture) is not a form of propaganda. It is truth." (John F. Kennedy)
7. "I am a liberal, yet I am a liberal tempered by experience, reflection, renouncement and I am, above all, a believer in culture." (Mathew Arnold)
8. Culture is the ARTS in all its forms. It cannot be separated from the world of the past, the present, the future - history, heritage, and humanities. The arts interpret the interests, the passions, the needs, and the aesthetics of people from the past and the present.