

Benton County Cultural Coalition  
Minutes  
Meeting July 31, 2007  
Corvallis Public Library

Members present: Karyle Butcher, Meghan Caughey, Walter Frankel, Ilona Hains, Susan Johnson, Joe Malango, Court Smith, Ann Staley, Sara Swanberg, Diane Tarter  
Members Excused: Kathryn Burton, May Dasch, Catherine Holdorf, Stefani McRae- Dickey, Rick Wallace

I. Minutes for the June 7 meeting were approved as written.

II. The County's year-end (June 30,2007) report was presented by Susan. BCCC's income for 2006/07 was \$8,689.82. Our expenses, including our \$7,600 in grants, totaled \$9,042.01 with a negative balance of \$-352.19.

With the carry over from the original planning committee of \$1,623.56 plus \$500.00 returned from the Alsea library grant that never completed, plus an award of \$10,170 from the Oregon Cultural Trust, we begin our 2007/08 year with \$12,293.56.

A budget for 2007/08 will be presented at the BCCC September meeting.

III. Old Business

A. Fall Festival (FF) report presented by Sara

To review, BCCC will again organize and person for FF a cultural information booth called by FF "Arts for All." Letters have been sent out to all the cultural groups - mostly arts groups asked to participate last year. Seven groups have responded so far.

Sara will ask Cynthia at FF about using the panels that were used last year.

BCCC members will be asked to sign up for a work session at the booth during our September meeting. FF takes place Saturday and Sunday Sept 22 & 23. We will set up the booth on Friday, September 21.

B. Revising the Cultural Plan

BCCC is waiting to hear from OCT about dates and procedures.

IV New Business

A. Goal Setting for BCCC for 2007/08

We agreed that our two main goals are awarding grants and promoting the Oregon Cultural Trust. We had an extensive conversation about our underlying goals. Meghan talked about how we should help to make culture a valued part of County life and that "small groups of people can make incremental change that is transformational." Things like a speaker's bureau, community calendar, the internet, blogs, a new arts and culture section in the GT, and success stories were discussed.

We agreed that our next incremental step was a revision of the cultural plan and to do this we needed to look at what we have achieved so far.

B. Awards Presentation Reception

In order to promote OCT and BCCC, we discussed the possibility of having a reception for all the boards that represent organizations receiving grants in which the checks would be presented and the organizations would briefly describe what they would be doing with the funds. This could be an event, Celebrate Benton county Culture, at the Majestic Theater including food, drink, and entertainment.

A second suggestion was that we do this with Celebrate Corvallis. Karyle will approach Celebrate Corvallis concerning the possibilities. A decision will be made during the September meeting.

#### C, Committees and Other Work

Grants Committee: Chair, Ann; Members: May, Rick, Joe, Stefani and Ilona, an alternate & member in training

PR Packet: Rick

Speakers Bureau: Walter & ?

Fall Festival 2007: Sara

Book Mark: Diane

Scheduling meeting places: Susan

Cultural plan revision: Susan & ? co-chairs

Reception: ?

Respectively submitted, Susan Johnson, Coalition member

#### DISCUSSION

Eight ideas surfaced from the discussion.

- \_. Update the strategic plan. All agreed a plan was needed.
- \_. Conduct a survey of partner organizations. This is in the planning stage. A draft survey has been completed.
- \_. Identify grant successes. A few poignant grant success stories would be useful. The web site does have a headline summary of each grant. We might use the photos accompanying grant reports more prominently on the BCCC web site and in news stories.
- \_. Establish a GT arts section. Stories developed about grants, arts and humanities activities, and special events could be posted on the web site and fed to local newspapers.
- \_. Energize interest around the arts and humanities. Create more dynamic and dramatic change in how the arts are viewed in the County.
- \_. Create a speakers bureau. Talks have been given to service clubs and Leadership Corvallis. Toastmasters, arts organization, education groups, and county agencies might also have potential audiences.
- \_. Get arts out into the County. Our grants history seems to document we have been doing this. Improve links between arts groups. We have discussed a cultural summit. We have the Fall Festival information booth. More can be done.