

Haverhill Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 5, 2025

In attendance: John Hassan, McKenna Jennings, Rosa DiFiore, Mike Morales, and Candice Hoover

Absent: Lillie Williams, Lynda Browne, Maria Elena Arata, and Lois Hartman

MAY 22 AM 10:35
HAVCITYCLERK

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

A motion to approve meeting minutes for Wednesday, January 15, 2025 was accepted by all present.

2024 Grant Extension: A request for an extension from the 2024 Cogswell art project grantee was discussed in depth, weighing the pros and cons. In conclusion, all members agreed to allow the grantee to present their project by 5/30/25 with the understanding that funds received must be fully returned if they fail to meet their deadline. All members concluded that we need to establish a policy for extensions, which will be decided at a future meeting.

Meeting with the Mayor: John, Mike, and Maria Elena met with the Mayor regarding guidelines for city record keeping. Effective 1/15/25, it was decided that all Cultural Council and Multicultural Council meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and attachments should be kept on file for six years at the City Clerk's office.

Subcommittee Updates: The Subcommittee (Mike, Candice, and Linda) to revise the present Grant Evaluation Form presented a draft of the proposed Grant Evaluation Checklist and a Grant Evaluation Rubric to the members for review. One recommendation was accepted by all present. Further discussion will take place at our next meeting 3/19/25 with all members present to provide their feedback.

Grantee Reception: John has invited the Mayor; the Haverhill City Council; Andrew Herlihy, Haverhill Director of Community Development; Greg Torrales, Mass. Cultural Council Program Officer; and State Representatives to the Grantee Reception. He will also be mailing invitations to the grantees the end of this week or early next week.

Yoga Request: Grantee, Elizabeth Hill, emailed a request for HCC to collaborate with her regarding her "mission to bring affordable and accessible fitness to the general public." Ms. Hill's expectations are that partnering with the HCC would provide "more legitimacy to the program and reach a wide audience." It was unclear to the members if she was looking for financial support or what kind of collaboration she's seeking from us. John is going to email her to ask her to provide more detailed information regarding her request.

Meeting with Other Cultural Agencies: On Thursday 2/13/25, John will be attending a reception for all local cultural districts at Merrimack Reparatory Theatre in Lowell. The purpose is to learn about potential investment grants available to regional Cultural Councils.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm to segue into our Multicultural Festival meeting.

The next HCC meeting will be held at Maria's Restaurant on 3/19/25 at 7pm following the Grantees Reception.