

The Budget Sub-Committee for Arts and Cultural Programs to Promote Tourism was held at the above place at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Arline LaMear, Councilor Bruce Jones, Chris Breitmeyer and Richard Hurley

John and Janet Niemi, John Larson and Dick Seppa, Board members representing Liberty Theatre and Julie Flues representing Astoria Regatta were in attendance.

Staff Present: Finance and Administrative Services Director Brooks

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Mayor LaMear 11:00 A.M.

Operational Definitions

Mayor LaMear started the meeting by noting the amount of material which needed to be covered within an hour and asked that members of the audience be brief in their comments and presentations.

Richard Hurley started the discussion by declaring the following potential conflicts of interest: He provides consulting for Astoria Music Festival, Astoria Visual Arts and Lower Columbia Q Center and is a former Board member of Tillicum Foundation Board. Chris Breitmeyer noted he is heavily involved with Clatsop Community College Foundation and the North Coast Chorale rents space from the college and the college supports the Fisher Poets event.

Mayor LaMear provided time for a presentation by Liberty Theatre board members. A short introduction was provided by Janet Niemi and a video regarding an upcoming capital campaign for the Liberty Theatre stage renovation was presented. Julie Flues, 2018 President for Astoria Regatta provided brief overview of Regatta activities and noted there is no charge for the activities which draw many to Astoria. Richard Hurley asked if the Regatta association was transitioning to a 501 (c)(3). Julie indicated the desire is to form a foundation which takes some time and resources. Regatta is rebuilding after several changes in leadership a few years ago. Many businesses donate to the Regatta with the current status of 501 (c)(4) which precludes individuals from taking a tax deduction for donations.

Director Brooks passed around additional information which was provided by Astoria Musical Festival for committee members to review.

Richard Hurley noted historically the subcommittee has met and developed preliminary recommendations then come back on a separate date to finalize the recommendations. Committee members discussed the mechanics of review and allocations based on the applications. Depending on whether there is a need further discussion will be held if the meeting needs to be continued.

Director Brooks will keep running totals and averages in a spreadsheet to assist with committee consensus on recommendations. This method was used in the prior year to assist with review of recommendations.

Councilor Jones asked about philosophically whether the committee would look at funding relatively small organizational needs versus one large request for a capital campaign study. Richard Hurley agrees this is a consideration to be discussed up front because there have been other manners which the City has supported the Liberty Theatre in the past. Richard Hurley noted there was consideration given to Liberty Theatre last year because the Musical Festival was not funded due to their application not being in to the City timely. The Liberty Theatre had a specific program to bring a younger group to Astoria for use of the Liberty Theatre. Richard Hurley did not feel this request was a reasonable request for this specific grant use. Chris Breitmeyer also felt the grant was meant for programs or events and if Liberty Theatre was bringing in a performer it would fall in the grant better. Richard Hurley also noted previously entities are encouraged to grow their events and this provides some seed money to establish events. Mayor LaMear noted she would like to provide something but believes it is more important to provide the seed money for smaller organizations to hold their events.

Review of Each Applicant

A review of each application was conducted with initial recommendations of committee members. Members listed aspects of the application which were commendable and applications which committee members felt could be enhanced with additional information as they conducted reviews. Finance Director Brooks will follow up on the items noted.

Recommended Allocations

Each committee member provided their initial recommendations for distribution amounts which were summarized and averaged in a working spreadsheet. The initial summary was printed for members to review and discuss further. After further deliberation among the committee members the following recommendations were agreed upon:

Arts and Cultural Programs to Promote Tourism	Amount Requested	Recommended Applicant Allocation
Astoria Arts and Movement Center	\$ 2700	\$ 2,700
Astoria Music Festival	10,000	10,000
Astoria Regatta Association	14,150	11,725
Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association	5,000	5,000
Astoria Tenor Guitar Foundation	5,000	3,200
Astoria Visual Arts	3,500	3,250
Liberty Restoration, Inc.	45,000	-
Little Ballet Theatre	4,000	3,100
Lower Columbia Q Center	5,000	4,375
Coast Community Radio	3,850	3,650
Fisher Poets Gathering	3,000	3,000
Total	<u>\$ 101,200</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>

Committee members requested a percent be computed which the subcommittee could put forth during the budget hearings as a standard of the Promote Astoria Fund so the Grant amount increases as more money is available in the Fund. The percent method would be effective for FY 19-20 should the budget committee approve the process for the future. It is important to note the amount has been \$ 50,000 for several years and there is a percent method utilized for the community organization grants. The committee asked if the amount could be based on FY 17-18 but since the year is incomplete we could only utilize the budget. It might be better to look back at a 3 year rolling average. Director Brooks will create a percent using a lookback.

A print out of the spreadsheet was provided to each committee member for further consideration. Another meeting was set to convene a meeting for final recommendations on March 13, 2017, at 4:00 P.M. An e-mail invitation will

Meeting ended at 12:49 P.M.

ATTEST:



Director of Finance and Administrative Services