

## Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes

### Zoom Meeting February 16, 2021

Present: Amanda Folsom, Michael Grinnell, Daman Irby, Kate Kogge, Dave Norris, Elizabeth Smiley, Adrienne Ward

Absent: Stella Mattioli, Nana Ghartey, Neely Minton, Joan Clarke

Non-members present: Maxicelia Robinson (Deputy Clerk of Council), Lachen Parks (Communications Director)

Meeting opened at 4:34 pm. Kate and Daman Irby presiding. A quorum was deemed present.

#### I. Approval of January minutes

**Motion** to approve: Michael Grinnell **Seconded**: Daman Irby

***Motion to approve minutes as written passed with no abstentions.***

#### II. 2020-21 Grants Cycle / Program – update by Amanda Folsom

- Reviewed the amount determined for this year's cycle, \$16K;
- the proposed award total is ca. \$11K
- also consideration of funding in different categories other than grants (travel scholarships, event sponsorships);

#### Discussion of individual proposals:

##### Peace and Creative Connection through Art

- Increased budget \$1850? (extra \$ to cover art supplies, shipping on Sister City side)
- Daman brings up potential that increased budget still not adequate, esp given that city is not yet determined;
- Suggested city Huehue?
  - **Motion** to increase grant amount to \$1850: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded**: Adrienne Ward (**Carried**: 7-0)
  
  - **Motion** for the grant applicant to determine which sister city they will partner with for the project: Elizabeth Smiley
  - **Seconded**: Dave Norris (**Carried**: 7-0)

## International High School Exchange

- Rec: fund thru travel scholarships program, not Grants Program
- However, pandemic conditions make student travel in 2021 highly unlikely; grant applicant wishes to postpone to next year's cycle (withdraw application for future consideration)
- Students are overwhelmed w virtual learning, experiences so does not wish to shift in that direction
- Elizabeth Smiley open to working w applicant to know more about the opportunity, esp for less-advantaged students; notes that Besancon has many exchange programs already, so structures are in place; but she would want to know more about how this proposal relates to others in place, to guard against duplication; Neely should also be consulted re risk management; she can talk w Rebecca
- Conversations are ongoing on virtual exchange/connections arrangements between Cville and Besancon (and other cities);
- Extra time also allows us to get clearer on whether there is a line item in CSCC for travel scholarships and for how much; Michael asked if we want to allow that for each separate city; to be discussed

## Face to Face Portraits, Bridge PAI/Speak!

- Rec \$3950, full funding; all 4 cities
- Will require grantees to work w our Sister City Reps to establish connections;
  - **Motion** to approve: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded:** Elizabeth Smiley (**Carried:** 7-0)

## Sister City Conversations

- Rec no funding, but talk further about potential budget allowance for language learning/training, possibly in tandem w upcoming trips to Sister Cities
  - **Motion** to not approve: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded:** Dave Norris (**Carried:** 7-0)

## Huehue Internet Solutions

- Rec \$3500; full funding minus costs of equipment deemed unnecessary
  - **Motion** to approve funding of up to \$3500, with 3D printer removed from budget: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded:** Adrienne Ward (**Carried:** 7-0)

## Pen & Paper/Make Sisters Write

- Rec \$2500
- Answers from applicant addressed questions about usage of funds

- **Motion** to approve: Amanda Folsom
- **Seconded:** Elizabeth Smiley (**Carried:** 7-0)

#### Reading Ghanaian Voices at the Virginia Festival of the Books

- Rec \$1000 support, but not as grant rather event sponsorship
  - **Motion** to not approve grant funding: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded:** Dave Norris (**Carried:** 7-0)
  - **Motion** to approve Event Sponsorship of \$1000: Dave Norris
  - **Seconded:** Adrienne Ward (**Carried:** 7-0)
- Michael Grinnell notes leaves total budget balance of \$25K ca.
- Amanda Folsom notes that Plevel-oriented event sponsorship not used last year, as VBook Fest cancelled in 2020

#### DiversItaly Lecture Series

- Rec no funding, as focus on Italian Sister City (Poggio a Caiano) is missing
  - **Motion** to not approve grant funding: Amanda Folsom
  - **Seconded:** Davis Norris (**Carried:** 7-0)

#### Michael Grinnell asked about VA Festival of Cultures;

- Kogge noted it's happening in May 2021
- Grinnell will put in line item for \$500, the usual contribution for this event
  - **Motion** to approve a sponsorship of \$500 to the VA Festival of Cultures: Dave Norris
  - **Seconded:** Michael Grinnell (**Carried:** 7-0)

#### Next steps on Grants Program:

- Amanda will be in touch with the Grants Committee and follow-up with grant applicants regarding funding decisions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

*Next CSCC meeting is on Tuesday March 16 @ 4:30 pm via Zoom.*