

Visitor's Cultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting of May 9, 2011
Century Station Training Room
5:00

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Becker, Brown, Ainsworth, Melone, Bellaver, Chapin, Hunt, Collins, Manthei

Absent: None

Also Present: Minick (City of St Charles)

Ainsworth made a motion to approve the minutes of 4-11-11 Meeting which was seconded by Brown

Voice vote - all aye motion carries

There was discussion of the Sculpture in the Park application and how to proceed since they had not made a presentation.

The Commission then entertained general discussion of maximum requests, minimum requests, how the funding allocations tie into the amount of funding available. Items discussed:

- Discussion of Fox Valley Repertory debt: A letter of explanation was read into the record of the meeting (see letter attached.) There was discussion of the debt accumulated, its ultimate disposition, and its impact on the VCC funding decision.
- Sculpture in the Park did not present at the April 11 meeting. A reduction or elimination of funding was discussed particularly in light of the fact that some Commission members had questions regarding the program that could not be answered because no one attended the meeting. It was noted that it is NOT a requirement for requesters to present. It was also noted that they did not follow the format of the new application packet.
- How do we evaluate groups who have not asked for more? Have we sent some mixed messages with our allocations in the past? Are they simply being frugal? Do we/How do we impact their funding plans and programs if we give them more than they request? Should we presume to do that? They have plans to cover the costs that they incur/expect by other means. Why should we fund more than they ask for?

- **Union Latina:** Concern was expressed that they do not have a consistent schedule and that they have cancelled events. Concern was expressed that we have/are becoming the sole funders of the event. Several contacts and ideas were advanced to them in the past and they have not taken advantage of the opportunities.

Sculpture in the Park and Union Latina did not follow the format as we set out in the letters. It was the consensus of the group not to penalize the groups that did not follow the format for this year, but we will make it clear to them that we anticipate that they **WILL** need to follow the format next year in order to avail themselves of the funding that the Commission offers.

Sculpture in the Park needs to provide estimates of attendance for their events.

Steel Beam Theatre: Desire was to allocate more funds to Steel Beam Theatre. Steel Beam is a proven entity within the community. Compensation of employee was discussed, especially relative to the salaries of other groups that request funding.

The Commission discussed the idea and thought of collaboration between FVR and SBT. It was noted that they do collaborate. It was the consensus of the group that they be encouraged to collaborate more and to do more in the future.

Groups should make a note of how many additional patrons that they are able to serve because of the additional funding that they receive from the Cultural Commission. This will help to justify future funding additions from the City and increased funding requests from the groups.

Motion to accept the funding allocation as attached to these minutes was made by Melone and seconded by Hunt.

Voice Vote - All Aye
Motion Carries

Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. Seconded by Brown

Voice Vote - All Aye
Motion Carries

**City of St Charles, Illinois
St Charles Cultural Commission
Funding Allocations Schedule
Fiscal Year 2011/2012**

Funded Groups	2011/2012 Proposed Funding	2010/2011 Funding	Proposed Change	2011/2012 Percentage	2010/2011 Percentage
St. Charles Singers	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	12.30%	10.00%
Fox Valley Repertory	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	8.39%	2.50%
Preservation Partners	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	10.07%	10.00%
St. Charles Heritage Center	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 31,300.00	\$ 4,200.00	39.71%	39.13%
Fox Valley Band	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	5.03%	2.50%
Steel Beam	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 3,700.00	10.51%	7.13%
Fine Line Creative Arts Ctr	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	7.83%	3.75%
Sculpture in the Park	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,300.00	2.80%	1.50%
Union Latina St. Charles	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,700.00	3.36%	1.63%
Norris Cultural Arts Center	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	\$ (17,500.00)	0.00%	21.88%
Total Allocations	\$ 89,400.00	80,000.00	9,400.00	100.00%	100.00%