

Ashland Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

Library Board Room – January 12, 2019 10.00am

Attendees: L. Krishnan, T. Yaskovich , R. Gosh, C.Mannal, V. Tilak

10.00 Call to Order

**Voting on Reconsideration of Julia Nardone’s Grant Application**

The Council discussed the reconsideration request and the following points were raised:

- **Public Benefit:** The proposal is limited to 18 students (at \$26 per student). The project proposal duplicates the efforts of the local schools but at a cost to the public funds of the Ashland Cultural Council. The Ashland Schools (both Middle and High) provide Arts Programs that are accessible to a larger number of constituents from the community and are free. These are available at no additional cost and effort on the part of parents to transport the students. The local schools are going above and beyond their means to address the creative needs of the community.
- **Time and Venue:** Unlike all applications funded, this particular proposal does not provide a definite time on which the event will be held. The venue selected is at a for-profit institution and is located further away from the Schools. Several other venues are available free of cost such as the Ashland Public Library – which is a short walk from the schools and there are several premises within the Ashland Schools that are accessible to all. We have funded very successful projects in the past grant cycles that have taken place in these commonly accessible spaces.
- **Target students:** The project targets 11-17 year old students. This is a large cohort that clubs pre-teens and teens together. The proposed project disregards the varied needs, capacities of students and fails to provide a structured learning opportunity that the Schools do in many ways.

Members voted and decided to reject the reconsideration request on the grounds that the program did not provide any public benefit.

**Follow-up:** R.Ghosh will draft the reconsideration rejection letter. L.Krishnan will work with MCC to have the letter reviewed and mailed.

Meeting adjourned.