

Watertown Cultural Council Minutes

June 11, 2025

7:00-8:30pm, Watertown City Hall Lower Hearing Room

Present: Nick Haddad, Morgan Henderson, Lawrence Kessenich, Greg Papasian, Phyllis Perrone, Lois Pond, Angela Tramontano, Sally Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with all members present

1. Minutes

- The March 2025 meeting and March logo meeting minutes were both approved by all. The April 2025 meeting was a training meeting on the Cultural District website conducted by Liz Helfer.
- Lois requested all members to share their phone number with her for updates on last-minute cancellations or changes.

2. Logo contest

- Greg led a discussion on the logo contest submissions and whether any would work for the council. All agreed that the students did an excellent job! Morgan recommended that members consider how the logos would also look if it needed to be printed with fewer colors.
- Members considered whether the old logo needed to be changed and whether any of the logos were a better fit for the cultural council.
- Vote on whether to keep old logo through the next grant season: Passed with 5 voting yes and 3 voting no.
- The council will keep the old logo. Students were awarded prizes as follows:
 - First place: logo 7 with change to fix spelling
 - Second place: logo 10
 - Third place: logo 2
 - Honorable mention: logo 15
- Lois will provide wording for the council's decision to Greg to share with the schools
- Greg will post the logos on Instagram to showcase the students' work and thank them for their submissions.

3. Officers

- Council officers were voted on for FY 2026
 - Lois Pond: Chair

- Morgan Henderson: Treasurer
 - Angela Tramontano: Secretary
- Vote: Larry approved, Phyllis seconded, all in favor

4. Community flash survey

- Last year's survey was sent to members for review.
- Angela recommended that this year's survey include some basic demographic questions to help better understand who responds
 - Survey will include two questions: age and whether there are any children <18 in the home
 - Survey will also include a new question about whether the respondent attended any cultural event in Watertown in the past year
- Nick will update the survey, Angela will send Nick wording for the demo questions
- Sally will ask her daughter, who is on the library trustee board, whether the library has survey information on participants at cultural events held at the library to help council understand who is attending these events. Nick asked whether we should provide a venue list to grantees. Lois stated that the Watertown Cultural district will help bring the different city organizations together.

5. Cultural Council Committees and Manual

- The council had committees in the past: for example, outreach, marketing
- Lois asked all members to think of what types of committees would be relevant to the council in FY2026
 - Examples: publicity, technology, data storage (for grantee final reports)
- Nick reminded members that the MCC has a suggested committee list. He discussed his work on the WCC grants committee in the past, which provided new members with information on how to review grants and provided the council with grant application updates.
- Morgan will look at the current WCC manual before the next meeting

6. Grantee Celebration 2025 recap

- Celebration was a success! Members agreed that Gore Place was an great, unique location and would like to consider it as a venue for next year.
- Grantees gave excellent feedback and loved the event.

7. Arts Market

- August 9, 2025, 12-5pm, volunteers needed for WCC table
- Morgan, Larry, Angela, Greg, and Sally offered to help
- Lois will send a sign-up sheet so members can choose their time

8. Other discussion items

- Morgan: Dragon Boat Festival was a success! They are looking for sponsors for next year
- Greg plans to create a trailer for FY2026 that describes the WCC and what we do
- Sally updated members on several Watertown projects
 - The Gorky mural celebration was great! The artist was present to discuss the mural and had two students who helped him paint it.
 - Expert pairings: the four pairs of artist/scientists have been chosen
 - Sculpture walks: three more sculptures will be installed

9. There is no meeting in July. The next meeting is on August 13, 2025, 7:00-8:30pm

10. With no other discussion items, Lois proposed to adjourn the meeting. Larry approved, Morgan seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

-Angela Tramontano, secretary