

Bridgewater Cultural Council September 23, 2025 meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Theo Simeoni. Members in attendance were Theo Simeoni, Nora Tarr, Matt Putnam and Joyce Pitta. Joyce Pitta, Secretary read the minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting. President Simeoni moved that the minutes be approved and Nora Tarr seconded the motion. Nora Tarr also noted that the email listing items to be discussed showed approval of an August 8, 2025 minutes to be approved not the minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting.

President Simeoni contacted Cheyenne at the Mass Cultural Council and was told that the deadline for changing our guidelines has passed. He also said that there are 14 approved grantees that have not submitted their final paper work. Nora Tarr asked if the funds had been released to the 4th of July antiphonal band. President Simeoni said the forms had been signed and the money should be released soon if it hasn't been sent already.

A discussion was held on having a friendly Halloween competition for the town businesses. They would put up decorations and a vote would be held on these decorations and perhaps a monetary reward would be given out. Josh McGraw said the council would need to approve this contest. Nora Tarr volunteered to visit the local businesses.

Joyce Pitta suggested since we can't change our guidelines perhaps we could have an internal numbering system that follows our guidelines on our 2026 applications. Nora Tarr said in previous years she would print out the applications and all members would mark them yes, no or maybe. The members would also send out emails to grantees if they needed more information or something was missing. President Simeoni will create an excel spreadsheet and put in a column for numbering or a yes, no, maybe column. Nora Tarr suggested looking at the applications as they come in to see if anything is missing and we could email the grantee prior to voting on them. There are 3 submitted applications.

President Simeoni also noted that Matt Putnam is not listed on the Cultural Council website. Matt Putnam will contact Cheyenne at MCC to find out how to have it corrected. Also Hayley Bacewicz is not set up correctly.

President Simeoni made a motion to go ahead with the Halloween contest, seconded by Nora Tarr with yes votes from Matt Putnam and Joyce Pitta. President Simeoni will meet with Josh McGraw to see how much money is available for prizes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Pitta, Secretary