

May 14, 2026 | 📅 MCC Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Sarah Bolha , smqualters@gmail.com , aliah.elbaz@gmail.com ,
Ontom4rs@gmail.com , maya.basgen@melroseschools.com , paulcornacchini@gmail.com ,
jimbracciale@hotmail.com , bouchael@gmail.com , carrollandco@outlook.com ,
gleason.nicholas@gmail.com , laurencstetson@gmail.com

Attached files:

Public Comment

None.

April Minutes

Approved.

Update on FY26 Grants

- One outstanding to be paid - Red Hawk Rumble: Ariana working to have them complete their forms
- Update from “Branching Through Time”: Sarah will follow up with Jenne to give feedback that we cannot approve based on the current description.
- Update from “Dragon at Eli Pond”: Jim will follow up - is the grant funding enough to rebuild at this current state? happy to help support him in finding a new location.
- 7 final reports received; review outstanding

Treasurer’s Report

The \$50k from the city has been deposited into our City account already.

Overview of FY27 Budget

- How do we want to parse out the funding we have for FY27? = \$16,800 from the State + \$50,000 from the City
- Do we have a commitment to the City to provide more grants and at a higher level? Yes, but within reason.
- Hold funds to support small funding opportunities throughout the year? “Free Cash” allocation of our own to have flexibility.
- Consider the buckets we want to keep: grants, big idea event, slush fund/admin items

Big Idea Discussion

- In 2017, the performance was just the MSO; could we consider including other performers? Would require flipping the stage or additional venues.
- Consider a rain plan - 2017 had a roof; if going bigger, what else would that require? Alternative location - stadium field; Insurance needs?
- Alternative layout: a series over multiple weeks - would be a really fun idea, but require more planning with a stage and programming.
- If it was a one day event where during the day other things/performance are occurring (dance, acting, improv, etc.) with a map culminating with the concert or the next day during the Victorian Fair?

Student Search Status (Maya)

- Shared the call to MHS, City, MCA, Melrose Messenger, Social Media and city Facebook pages
- No responses yet but plan to hold interviews on June 1
- Next Step: Push through our student members - how can we get them out through word of mouth at the school; create flyer - add to Friday video announcement, promote through newspaper (Aliah), morning announcements

Marketing Materials (Sheri)

- **Event Marketing Tip Sheet:** combined work between Jenne, Maya, Sherie and Tina, add link into the grant confirmation email
- **Melrose Arts Events Planning Toolkit:** utilizing the toolkit that previously existed and updating it, making it a city resource; share for review with Tom & Lauren from the City

Other Items

- **LCC Local Fundraising Check-In Event (June 15):** registration recommended
- **MCC Presence at Melrose Events:** Summer Stroll and Victorian Fair - excuse to engage people even though we have no survey, fundraising or looking for new member
 - Photo Booth with costumes?
 - Costume contest?
 - Victorian Music?
 - Weaving or needle point to exhibit - art of the time
- **Leadership Update:** Sarah will be stepping down as co-chair at the end of July, Elizabeth B. will be taking over
- **Other Membership updates:** Tina will be moving to Rockland in June/July and thus stepping down from the council

Meeting adjourned at 8:27