

Humanities Montana Grants Committee Meeting
July 24, 2023
Zoom, 10:00 AM

Present: Jennifer Corning (chair); Francine Spang-Willis; Carla Homstad; Jeremy Carl; Ray Ekness. Lathie Pool; Jill Baker (executive director) and Megan Sundy (grants manager).

Jennifer Corning called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

At Jennifer's request, Megan Sundy provided a brief grants update for the committee. She reminded committee members of the upcoming grant application submission deadline and the timeframe within which staff and board need to complete proposal reviews prior to the September board meeting. She also mentioned that this round of applications includes more substantial proposals for film + video projects and that reviewers should plan for additional time to complete evaluations. The schedule for this next grant cycle is as follows:

August 20: Submission deadline for Regular and Film + Video grant applications
August 21-29: Megan & Jill review applications and comment
August 30-September 10: Board members review applications, comment, and score.
September 12: Grants Committee meets to discuss and make final recommendations to the board.
September 13: Finalize meeting minutes and send all materials to Julie for inclusion in the board packet.

The grants committee will meet again via Zoom on Tuesday, September 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://umontana.zoom.us/j/95787218987?pwd=L3ZZbytFTndjd2xCbG1YSTEwSjhjUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 8721 8987

Passcode: 626606

Jennifer Corning then began the general discussion regarding advocacy. The committee reviewed and discussed the following documents:

- "On Advocacy" Statement in Board Packet (page 18)
- "Some Guidelines for Consideration" in Board Packet (page 17)

Ray Ekness informed the committee of his intent to apply in this next cycle for MTPR's The Write Question radio program. He recognizes the conflict of interest and will (1) recuse himself from evaluating the application and voting on award decisions related to the project, (2) ensure he will not be included in the project and will not receive any financial benefit if awarded, (3) will try to act as the authorizing official for the project rather than the project director.

Carla Homstad raised questions about assessing project sustainability during application evaluations. The committee discussed and staff agreed to review the language in the rubric and look for opportunities to provide clarity.

Jennifer Corning thanked everyone for participating in the discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Megan Sundy

Minutes approved by: Jill Baker and Jennifer Corning