

**Public Education Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 5, 2023**

Present: Arthur Merrill, Tina Molé, Allen Hinkley, Mike Meyer, Jeff Senterman, Jim Eisel, Richard Parete, Joseph Cetta, Thomas Hoyt, Aaron Bennett, Nick Sadler, Gabriel Riggle, Patrick Palmer, Thomas Stalter, Dmitry Ostapyshyn, Heidi Haynes, Alicia Terry, Mark Tuthill, Christopher Matthews, Lisa Melville and Heidi Emrich

Staff present: Samantha Costa, Tim Cox, Jason Merwin, Jim Martin, Donald Brown, Sonia Martinez, Barbara Puglisi, Lynn Kavanagh, Jessica Fiedler

The meeting was called to order at 11:28 a.m.

1. Minutes from the April 2023 meeting were accepted without change.
2. Samantha went over the 2024 Education Grant Budget. Planning to keep the budget at \$175,000 for Student/Teacher Audiences and \$25,000 for Public Audiences with a total budget of \$200,000 for Round 27.
3. Round 25 update: The Round 25 grants are from the 2022-2023 school year. The Round 25 final reports are slowly coming in. So far, we have received 4 reports and several more are due by the end of November. Samantha has been in constant contact with these recipients.
4. Round 26 update: The Round 26 grants are for the 2023-2024 school year. The Round 26 contracts were sent on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. So far, we have received 13 contracts back and we have executed 9 of those contracts. The Round 26 recipients have been reminded that their contracts need to be signed and returned by November 1<sup>st</sup> otherwise their application will be withdrawn.
5. Samantha brought up the situation of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and their non-profit status. Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is one of the Round 25 recipients who submitted their final report, however they have 2 grants they were awarded in Round 26, but in the middle, they have been revoked of their non-profit status due to not submitting their taxes on time. Samantha has been in contact with staff at Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and told them to sign the contracts and return them to CWC and as soon as we get the reinstatement letter for their non-profit status, we will execute the contracts. If they get reinstated after November 1, we will come back to the committee to decide what to do since the deadline to return the contracts is November 1.
6. Samantha stated that the RFP for Round 27 would be going out to the school/organizations on November 8<sup>th</sup> for the next round of grants for next school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Next meeting: TBD