

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from July 12, 2023

Carriage House Theater, 203 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021

Present: R. Bradley, B. Chabot, A. Daddabbo, S. Fischer, J. Giannettino, D. Gottschalk-Fielding, C. Kasper, J. Kline, C. Mason, Rev. P. Price, G. Sears, D. Stankus, K. Wise Gosch, J. Wrench

Excused: Dr. R. Burgess, Rev. P. Carter, J. Waller, A. Wilson, L. Carr, K. Hill, K. Kuhl, D. Lamb, M. McEvers, K. Walker

Guests: None

Call to Order July 12, 2023, at 9:03 a.m. by B. Chabot. The mission statement was read by J. Kline.

Approval of Minutes

B. Chabot asked for a motion to accept the April 12, 2023, minutes as presented, and the motion was made by D. Stankus and seconded by J. Kline. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Finance Report

C. Kasper presented the Finance Report. Details about the budget were reviewed including the increase to the advertising line and related decrease to the fulfillment line. Jacobs Press offered an in-kind donation of approximately \$97 to reduce the cost of printing the Passport to History booklets. The domain for the website was renewed for three years. A full page of advertising was placed in the Skaneateles Festival program. Details about a new 'Following Harriet' program were shared. B. Chabot added that the soprano from that production will be showcasing an Aria on the south porch at Seward House Museum on Friday, August 4.

C. Kasper asked for a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented, and the motion was made by B. Chabot and seconded by K. Wise Gosch. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Commission Chair Vote

C. Kasper asked for a motion to vote in A. Daddabbo as the new Commission Chair for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The motion was made by B. Chabot and seconded by J. Kline. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Annual Budget Approval

C. Kasper continued the financial reporting with a review of the Draft Budget effective 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024. Adjustments to the advertising line relate to the end of the contract with TGW. The web domain line was increased; the cost for annual memberships also increased. The Passport to History line is still \$1,000- sponsorships will be explored to support the costs for materials and busing for students to participate in the program with their classmates as a part of the school curriculum. Special Projects has the same amount, including a stipend for Fort Hill Cemetery to print their brochures, a popular piece with visitors.

A motion was made to approve the budget by K. Wise Gosch and seconded by B. Chabot. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Site Director Reports:

A. Daddabbo thanked the City of Auburn on behalf of Auburn Public Theater and applauded the Juneteenth celebrations including the Angela Davis Q&A event, which hosted approximately 700 attendees, according to B. Chabot. APT will host

a comedy duo on August 6, Livingston Taylor in later August, Mary Fahl and Mark Doyle on September 9, and Dar Williams also in September.

C. Kasper stated USA Today listed Auburn among the top 12 places to celebrate Juneteenth. Representatives from Ebony Magazine, Essence Magazine, Bridge Street, and local publications covered the festivities. Web traffic on the Equal Rights Heritage Center website at that time was up 181% in the Events/Things To Do categories. Saturday Market at ERHC continues on Saturdays through August 26. Aesop's Fables, performed by The Rev Theatre, will take place on the back lawn on July 22. SHM will offer free history themed guided trolley rides on Founder's Day August 12, launching from ERHC. The last market date, August 26, is Women's Equality Day and will feature Colleen Kattau, whose song 'Dangerous Woman' will be featured on the song wall within the exhibit.

B. Chabot announced ERHC will host the next installment of the Lunchtime Lecture on July 19 from 12-1PM. Hands on History Summer Camp is sold out. An opera singer may be performing at SHM on August 4 with details to come. August 5 is Fanny Seward Girl Scout Day. Carriage House Theater will host Ted Freeman for a talk on his latest book, 'God's Freeman' as part of Founder's Day on August 9.

K. Wise Gosch stated a lunchtime lecture will be held in the Carriage House Theater on July 13. A book talk with Tim Long, Walter Long's son, is coming up on August 17. A Drag performance will be held in the gallery with the theme of 'A Friend of Dorothy'. Air Conditioning has recently been installed inside the Cayuga Museum, which has yielded an increase in visitation. An email to partners is forthcoming regarding fall programs involving the Fabrication installation.

D. Gottschalk-Fielding told about the Discover Summer program at Seymour Library- details available on their website. A collaborative program with Booker T. Washington community center continues through July and August.

Sidney Fischer shared updates and events at Willard Memorial Chapel, including the new parking lot to be installed and lighting improvements to the hallway. Finger Lakes Art Council will be participating in Founder's Day again this year with festivities being held at the Chapel inside and out on August 12. The Oswego Valley Snowbelters Barbershop group will perform on August 20.

J. Kline shared events taking place within the Auburn Downtown BID district. Music on the Mall on July 14 is hosting Root Shock on State Street. The first annual Chicken Wing Festival will be held on August 5 on Genesee Street. Founder's Day returns downtown on August 12 and will feature three bands, craft vendors, and a mosaic installation on the outside wall of APT near the parking garage that Saturday and Sunday. Summer is the goal for the installation of the Freedom Park sculpture.

J. Wrench encouraged partners to review their Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce member directory listing on the website. Events can be sent to admin@cayugacountychamber.com. The 2023-2024 Leadership Cayuga project has yet to be determined.

R. Bradley reminded partners about the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution coming up. SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) group are collaborating on historical markers.

C. Mason announced the city budget was unanimously supported by city council members, including ERHC operations costs. The Frances Brown marker at 45 Parker Street saw 20 Tubman descendants at the unveiling.

A. Wilson wrote in per C. Kasper about the open, full-time National Park Service Ranger position.

D. Lamb, per K. Wise Gosch, mentioned Quilting by the Lake kicks off next week at Wells College and the latest exhibit features art by renowned creator, Nancy Crow.

Marketing

Market NY Campaign

C. Kasper reviewed updates including Life in the Finger Lakes ads. A new summer campaign video by TGW was displayed called 'Meet Me in Auburn'. Merchandise and freebies are being created with the same tagline- look for six billboards, postcards, bumper stickers, T-shirts, and digital banners at Falcon Park. Influencer Hope Breen will be coming on August 5 to capture video and more.

Auburn NY Visitor Guide 2024

J. Kline shared that long time visitor guide editor Lee Cunningham has left The Citizen. New advertising representative, Amber has been contacted. The Skaneateles Chamber Directory and Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce Directory are being produced in-house. Ad sales will need to be explored.

2023 Programming

Founder's Day (August 12)

I Love NY's Path Through History weekend will occur again in 2023 on October 7-9.

Holiday Traditions (December 10)

2024 Programming

Brave Brews (March 1-3)

Save the date for the first weekend in March 2024 for the third annual Brave Brews Weekend event, scheduled 3/1-3/3, including First Friday.

Harriet Tubman Week is scheduled for the second weekend in March 2024, 3/10-3/15.

I Love NY's Path Through History (June 15-16)

Auburn NY Pride (June)

Funding can be shared to cover drag shows or saved for 2024 programming. Goals include creating local partnerships and involving special community members.

Juneteenth (June)

New Business

There was no new business.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Announcements were shared with Site Director Reports.

Adjournment

B. Chabot adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. A motion was made by Kirsten Wise Gosch and seconded by J. Kline. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10/11/2023 at Willard Memorial Chapel.

Commission meetings in 2024 will be conducted on the following dates and locations:

January 10, 2024 NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center

April 10, 2024 Cayuga Museum

July 10, 2024 Auburn Public Theater

October 9, 2024 To Be Determined

Minutes by Gillian Sears