

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from March 10, 2021 via Zoom

Present: R. Bradley, Rev. P. Carter, B. Chabot, C. Eidel, J. Giannettino, D. Gottschalk-Fielding, C. Kasper, J. Kline, K. Kuhl, D. Lamb, C. Mason, K. Szewczyk, M. Welych, K. Wise Gosch, J. Waller, M. Welych

Excused: M. Alberici, J. Armstrong, L. Carr, A. Daddabbo, K. Hill, S. Kline, S. Muldoon, A. Saret, D. Stankus, C. Taylor, K. Walker, A. Wilson

Call to Order

The bimonthly meeting of Auburn's Historic and Cultural Sites Commission was called to order on March 10, 2021, at 9:02 a.m. by K. Wise Gosch.

Approval of Minutes

K. Wise Gosch asked for a motion to accept the 1/13/2021 minutes as submitted. B. Chabot sought clarification pertaining to the reference to bikers, and K. Szewczyk stated it meant bicyclists. The motion was made by B. Chabot and seconded by J. Kline. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Finance Report

C. Kasper presented the Finance Report. The Visit Auburn guide will be released soon and a significant portion of the advertising budget will be used towards that. All memberships are up to date. The Passport to History budget may be used towards something else if the program does not launch this year. A full page discounted ad in the Skaneateles Directory will be funded rather than just a half page like usual, as well as a free banner ad on their website for July or August. J. Kline asked about the timeline for deciding how to spend the Passport to History budget line, and K. Szewczyk shared that the expense expected currently would go toward thumb drives for the teachers. No prizes will be funded this year. C. Mason added commentary about the budget restructuring wherein leftover funds being carried over can be added to the award for the next fiscal year.

K. Wise Gosch asked for a motion to accept the finance report as submitted, and the motion was made by D. Lamb and seconded by J. Kline. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Site Directors' written reports were included in the packet.

Executive

C. Kasper reminded the commission members about expiring term limits. J. Kline has agreed to remain as the representative from Auburn Downtown BID for another three years. Terms for At Large commission members M. Alberici, C. Taylor, and D. Stankus have also matured. D. Stankus has elected to continue for three more years. M. Alberici has elected to step down from the commission. C. Taylor has

elected to step down from the commission now that Schine Theater has new owners and he is no longer as involved in that as he once was.

A 3-year strategic plan is in development.

The living history project enacted by high school students in collaboration with Auburn Public Theater is in discussion to resume perhaps in the summertime, to be revisited for the next fiscal year. J. Kline suggested if additional funds are needed, perhaps leftover money previously allocated for Passport to History program can be utilized.

Marketing

C. Kasper shared a visual of new images being featured on the first map wall across 14 screens at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center representing each of the historic and cultural sites.

J. Kline shared that the Visit Auburn guide project is moving forward with The Citizen and the print quantity has risen to 6,000 pieces and 24 pages of content plus a map. The budget is about \$10,000, printed by Jacobs Press, and TGW has agreed to design the cover and map. Stock photos are provided. Details about ad spaces were shared.

C. Kasper stated the Skaneateles Directory ad has been increased to a full page spread rather than a half page. Other advertising opportunities will be explored through Advance Media in Syracuse.

The topic of themed summer programming was discussed. C. Kasper stated planning for the PRIDE festival as well as the Saturday Market has begun. D. Gottschalk-Fielding stated Seymour Library is considering an author book talk and book club kits.

Relating to Harriet Tubman, C. Kasper thanked all partners who have been assisting with the festival programming. Author Kate Clifford Larsen has offered her blessing to call the event the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial, in honor of 200 years since Tubman's birth. A committee will be developed soon. Discussion about current, past and potential future events and programming was shared. B. Chabot stated Author Dorothy Wickenden will be hosted by Seward House Museum for a book signing event for The Agitators. C. Kasper shared plans for summer 2022 including the completion of the sidewalk project on South Street leading to Harriet Tubman home plus the traveling Harriet Tubman statue arriving in July and the return of the Strawberry Stroll. The Black Women's Leadership Caucus is interested in hosting some programming.

The motion was made by J. Kline to approve the Committee Reports and seconded by D. Lamb. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Announcements

Commission members shared news.

K. Szewczyk announced Maryland PBS is working on a Harriet Tubman documentary.

C. Mason shared a visual of Falcon Park and elaborated the collaborative plan with Doubledays Baseball, Cayuga Community College, and the City of Auburn.

J. Kline inquired about intent for First Friday participation. B. Chabot predicts June – October if weather permits visitors to be outdoors. D. Lamb is looking at July for programming at Schweinfurth Art Center.

K. Wise Gosch echoed the July concept for Cayuga Museum.

K. Szewczyk announced she will be a speaker for Boston National Historical Park to talk about Harriet Tubman in Auburn and her connections with Boston.

C. Kasper announced upcoming programming. Check the website for details.

Adjournment

K. Wise Gosch adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday 5/12/2021 via Zoom.

Minutes by Gillian Sears