

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from March 9, 2022 via Zoom

Present: R. Bradley, B. Chabot, J. Giannettino, C. Kasper, J. Kline, J. Kolb, D. Lamb, C. Mason, Rev. P. Price, G. Sears, K. Szewczyk, J. Waller, A. Wilson, K. Wise Gosch, J. Wrench

Excused: J. Armstrong, L. Carr, Rev. P. Carter, A. Daddabbo, C. Eidel, D. Gottschalk-Fielding, K. Hill, S. Kline, K. Kuhl, K. Walker, M. Welych

Call to Order March 9, 2022, at 9:02 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 1/12/2022 minutes as submitted, and the motion was made by J. Kline and seconded by K. Wise Gosch. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Finance Report

C. Kasper presented the Finance Report. B. Chabot asked whether Jacobs Press offered any collateral in-kind when the visitor guide is printed, C. Kasper elaborated they usually provide 2,000 copies of the standalone map; this detail will be reflected on future Finance Reports. B. Chabot asked for a motion to accept the finance report as submitted, and the motion was made by J. Giannettino and seconded by K. Wise Gosch. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Site Directors' written reports were included in the packet.

Marketing

Market NY third year grant funding plans- C. Kasper stated the contract has just come back from Market NY. TGW Studio will be contracted again and details are in discussion with a focus on in-market targeting. C. Mason added the RFP process allows us to remain with TGW as the contractor with request that they acquire a new subcontractor, likely Break the Ice Media.

Auburn NY Visitor Guide new map & booklet review- C. Kasper stated 12 ½ pages can be used for ads in the new guide, which will now feature 32 pages versus the previous 24 pages. The revised map was shared courtesy of Lee at The Citizen. Revision suggestions are due by Friday, March 11 with final revisions by March 22. The visitor guide was reviewed with room for more content and will be going to the printer by April 1. <https://takerootinauburn.org/>

2022 Programming

C. Kasper thanked partners for participation during Brave Brews event. Next year's dates are March 3-5, 2023. Please submit metrics, demographics, and anecdotes by March 21. A recap meeting will take place late March to plan for next year.

Harriet Tubman Bicentennial (March through September)

Rev. P. Price stated a memorial service is scheduled for March 10 in collaboration with ERHC. The Proclamation by City of Auburn Mayor, Michael Quill will kick off Harriet Tubman Day at 8:30 AM; followed by a GirlTrek walk at 10AM from ERHC to Ft. Hill cemetery and later a Podcast 'from Ashanti to Auburn'. A hybrid in-person and virtual memorial service will be held at 7PM at the A.M.E. Zion church. On Saturday March 12 the birthday celebration will start with a 9 AM GirlTrek walk from ERHC to the Harriet Tubman Home. Girltrek is national organization supporting colored women's health.

<https://girltrek.org/> <https://www.harriettubman200.com/events>

K. Szewczyk stated on Friday, March 11 at 7PM log in for a virtual program with Dr. Carolyn Jacobs; also, birthday cards from schools named after Harriet Tubman- VA, LA, CA, DC, NJ, plus St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

Auburn NY Pride (June 2022)

C. Kasper encouraged partners to save the date- Saturday, June 25 for the pride rally during the day; in the evening, Sizzling Summer; and an interfaith pride service will be scheduled with Rev. Heary from Westminster Presbyterian Church. On June 11, Auburn Public Theater welcomes comedian Flame Monroe.

Tubman 200 event funding application (ARPA)

ARPA funding- next week a questionnaire will be sent to partners related to the 2023 bicentennial programs with a cost prediction to allocate budget funds. Programming will be planned through September 2022 including an enhanced celebration for Juneteenth taking place 11AM-10PM partnering with City Hall, Booker T. Washington, and ERHC. Free trolley tours will take place in the morning on June 18 with Seward House Museum and the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. September is International Underground Railroad month with September 17, 1849 being Harriet Tubman's liberation date.

New Business

C. Kasper shared images of new installations at ERHC.

C. Mason stated Ahna Wilson from National Parks will be coming to City Council on Thursday, May 5 to share a presentation on National Historic Preservation Month. Two new events are to be developed through the Market NY grant- one was the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial, the other being to enhance Juneteenth. Seward's influence on the Emancipation Proclamation is an example of focus as is an Equal Rights Heritage Symposium, piggybacking on a concept previously presented by B. Chabot.

R. Bradley mentioned a driving tour brochure and app is in development.

B. Chabot stated the Museum Association of New York (MANY) has funding for those who don't receive NYSCA funding. The group was asked about current mask mandates and involvement with the Hero act - Seward House Museum recommends but do not require and docents use masks for groups. Schweinfurth Art Center and Cayuga Museum mirrored that sentiment. A Washington Post reporter came last week stayed for the Brave Brews festival; the article is expected late March/early April.

Old Business

B. Chabot retold how Seward House Museum is taking the lead to revisit the Passport to History program. All five elementary school principals in Auburn have been contacted. Collectively we have enough passport books currently without needing a reprint in 2022. Field trip opportunities can be explored. Funding and prizes were discussed with the suggestion that all students get a small prize like a poster and sticker; there are approximately 375 students in total. The passports will need revision for 2023.

Announcements

Commission members shared news.

J. Kline announced the success of the first annual Brave Brews festival. Summer events being planned include rock the top concerts; Hip Hop for Harriet and a basketball tournament on June 10 plus music in evening; Memorial Day will see the return of the City Parade and a food truck rodeo at Market Street Park with two bands in the band shell in place of the Kiwanis duck derby.

D. Lamb announced a new grant initiative through Creatives Rebuild NY is offering money to hire artists. The two programs available feature either \$1000/month for artists or an opportunity to employ artists for up to \$65,000 for 2 years for partnership. The deadline is coming up soon but it's an easy application.

J. Wrench announced the State of the -City, -County, and -Schools is coming up. Attendance is free with webinars. On March 22, a Succession Planning for Non-profits is scheduled. Registration is available online.

J. Kolb announced the new family space at Seymour Library opened on February 14. Take and make activity kits have been popular with 200+ taken so far. March activities include a drop-in craft challenge plus two new take and make activities themed around Women's History Month and reading to pets.

Adjournment

B. Chabot adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m. A motion was made by J. Kline and seconded by R. Bradley. All were in favor and the motion carried. The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5/11/2022. Closer to that date it will be decided whether to meet in person or via Zoom.

Minutes by Gillian Sears