

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from January 13, 2016, City Hall

Present: M. Alberici, B. Chabot, J. Giannettino, J. Kline, D. Lamb, J. Loperfido, D. Stankus

Excused: M. Clary, A. Fuller, E. McHugh, S. Muldoon, M. Vanek, K. Walker

Absent: Rev. P. Carter, L. Frank

Guests: Chuck Mason

Mayor Quill welcomed the Commission to Memorial City Hall. He touched on the Harriet Tubman Home National Park designation process. He also proposed combining committees may increase efficiency.

Approval of the Minutes

J. Kline read the Commission's mission and vision statements. B. Chabot made a motion to accept the 11/10/15 minutes as submitted and the motion was seconded. **All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

D. Lamb made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and the motion was seconded. **All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Site Directors

M. Alberici shared details about K. Walker's health status and upcoming surgery. She will be reachable in a couple of weeks pertaining to matters related to Willard Chapel via her home office while she recovers. Her personal contact information will be made available to the Commission soon for contact and condolences.

Marketing Committee

G. Sears spoke on M. Vanek's behalf about the Cayuga Community College Video Project. The project is still in process and completion is expected in the beginning of this year. Professor Steve Keeler will return to class at the beginning of the spring 2016 semester on January 19th, and final voiceovers will take place shortly thereafter. G. Sears will provide a follow up at the March 9, 2016 meeting with more updates.

G. Sears conducted a meeting on 1/12/16 with representatives from WCNY to discuss advertising options. The Marketing committee will be contacted to review the options and details will be made available to the Commission at the March 9, 2016 meeting.

Community Outreach

Members elaborated on their successes at Holiday Traditions.

D. Lamb said attendance was on par with recent years, but less than 5 – 6 years ago, as First Friday celebrations compete as another free event.

M. Alberici said because many sites participate, a low attendance number may be misleading because no patron can go to all of the sites.

B. Chabot said she is glad for the variety of sites. During the early years of Holiday Traditions, The Seward House Museum was the only site open for free. She welcomed 551 patrons through the front door, pointing out that some uncounted individuals may have entered through the back.

J. Loperfido mentioned the profound success experienced by the Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum with the Holiday Traditions celebration taking place during the Festival of Trees.

G. Sears gave an update on behalf of A. Fuller and S. Muldoon regarding the progress of the Passport to History program. Edits to the booklets are currently underway. A finished copy should be available by the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

B. Chabot has reached out to Lacesha Berry and provided her proposal to the Commission. The general consensus is that it appears the event will not be lucrative, and will likely end up a monetary 'flush,' meaning possible revenues from the show will only cover the expenses to host.

New Business

The website domain renewal was paid for historyshometown.com, as is noted in the treasurer's report.

M. Alberici is the current Commission Chair. Rev. P. Carter is the Vice Chair, though he hasn't been present at the meetings due to work obligations. The voting on new Chairs has been tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Announcements

Commission Members shared upcoming events at their sites.

J. Kline announced the Model T event will bring in 500 people who will be staying in Auburn for one week. This will provide gift shop opportunities. She suggested local attractions should consider offering refreshments, and perhaps the City could sponsor hospitality. This will also be a photo and video opportunity. J. Giannettino and Chuck Mason offered to talk to Mayor Quill about that possibility.

The next topic of discussion at the upcoming Wednesday Morning Roundtable meeting on January 20th will be Auburn's public Art Trail.

D. Lamb announced new classes will be offered at the Schweinfurth Art Center and the Both Sides of the Rainbow exhibit will begin at the end of January. The Quilts=Art=Quilts show was popular.

J. Loperfido announced Schine Theater's board consists of 60 members. The grants they sought were turned down. Asbestos in the building is the problem and needs to be removed. Beardsley is finishing the paperwork. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting proposals. The Osborne building was purchased from the church. The Osborne Center for Social Justice is a museum charter. A renovation at a cost of \$250, 000 is being implemented.

B. Chabot announced the February group tours have been prescheduled. The season officially opens March 1, 2016. First Friday on March 4, 2016 will have a winter theme to coincide with IGNITE the Winter. The 200th anniversary of the Seward House and the Auburn Correctional Facility is in 2016. Dr. Caleb Smith of Yale University is the author of a new 19th century prisoner memoir. William Freeman was also incarcerated during that time. The Seward House did not receive the REDC money to preserve the carriage house at the back of the building as was desired.

J. Kline officially announced TomatoFest will now take place in downtown Auburn on the 2nd Saturday of September, 2016. The Brew Run with Prison City Brew Pub is seeking big acts to perform during that event. The Founders Day celebration is being retooled to accommodate the antique car club and motorcycles on State Street. March 4th will feature the IGNITE the Winter event with the Show Mobile and family fun from 5:00 – 8:00 pm and live acts from 8:00 – 10:00 pm. The Auburn Photography Club is slated to do a local photo show. Auburn Public Theater will now be involved in that event by hosting the Jam Band from 8:00 – 10:00 pm. Majorpalooza will also take place downtown all day and night May 29, 2016, which is the Sunday before Memorial Day. Downtown is now sanctioned for runners.

J. Giannettino announced he was excited to be a new member of the Historic and Cultural Sites Commission as he was previously a member of the Cayuga Museum Board.

M. Alberici announced the Willard Chapel's Sunday Music Series 2016 schedule. May 1st features 'Breakfast at Tiffany's,' a women's brunch hosted at The Center from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Tickets will cost \$50. October 6th is Chef's Night – details for this event are still being developed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by J. Loperfido at 10:40 am and the motion was seconded.
The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:30 am on 3/9/15 at the Seward House Museum.

Minutes by Gillian Sears