

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from March 9, 2016, Seward House Museum

Present: B. Chabot, M. Clary, J. Giannettino, J. Kline, K. Walker, K. Wise (for E. McHugh)

Excused: M. Alberici, A. Fuller, E. McHugh, S. Muldoon, D. Stankus, M. Vanek,

Absent: Rev. P. Carter, L. Frank, D. Lamb, J. Loperfido

B. Chabot welcomed the Commission to the Seward House Museum. She announced the museum reopened for the season on March 1, and although it didn't see any guests that day, there have been an increasing number of guests each day since. A new exhibit on the second floor of the house has been developed to honor the 200th anniversary of the house. On Thursday, 3/10/16 at 7:00 pm Auburn Public Theater will play host to Yale Professor Caleb Smith for a lecture on the new book he edited entitled, *The Life and Times of a Haunted Convict*, which is a memoir of an African American inmate in Auburn Prison during 1858-1859 during which time William Seward was in Auburn. A new event called Seward Trivia will take place on 3/30/16 at Prison City Pub and Brewery at 8:00 pm. Artists are being sought for April exhibits. April First Friday will feature a new exhibit. May First Friday will feature the orchid society. Natalie Stetson's last day was March 4, 2016 and is now the Executive Director of the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse. Applications for that position will be accepted through 3/28/16.

Approval of the Minutes

M. Clary read the Commission's mission and vision statements. January 2016 minutes could not be voted upon because the meeting was not in a quorum.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

The January 2016 treasurer's report could not be voted upon because the meeting was not in a quorum.

Site Directors

K. Walker announced the Willard Memorial Chapel has resumed regular hours of Tuesday through Friday. The Tiffany Concert Series features an event every month with a new variety of artists. Corning Glass will be featuring Tiffany mosaics in 2017. A photographer will be coming soon to take pictures of the chapel. A new event entitled *Breakfast for Tiffany* will take place at The Center on May 1, 2016. Bus tour reservations have been on the rise and many are requesting an organist. Meeting space is available at no cost.

Kirsten Wise sat in the meeting on behalf of E. McHugh for Cayuga Museum. 2016 marks the 80th anniversary. New carpet and lighting fixtures have been installed in the galleries. New programs include the resurgence of Kids' Day, which takes place one Saturday each month. The summer exhibit will be called *Cops and Robbers* and is set to open in May. Final Friday events will not occur in May, June, July or August because Memorial Day occurs after the last weekend in May and The Pitch will resume in the summer at Theater Mack. Cayuga Museum is proud to announce they received a MANY award from the Museum Association of New York.

Marketing Committee

G. Sears spoke on M. Vanek's behalf about the Cayuga Community College Video Project. The project is near completion. Professor Steve Keeler stated 3/7/16 that he believed the majority was finalized and the last component is the Fort Hill Cemetery portion. He agreed to verify that info with the Commission soon. More details will be shared at the May 11, 2016 meeting.

M. Vanek and G. Sears conducted a Marketing Committee meeting on 2/25/16 with D. Lamb and E. McHugh to discuss WCNY advertising options. Upon reviewing the details of the proposal, the Marketing Committee concluded that the radio advertising provided by WRVO was both satisfactory in content and results while also being the more cost effective option compared to the quote provided by WCNY. At this time the Marketing Committee has decided to maintain the contract with WRVO while maintaining a relationship with WCNY to consider their products and services in the future, whether it be for radio, television or print advertising. Another advertising component to watch will be the results of the Meredith buy which was newly acquired during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Community Outreach

Members had nothing to share.

Passport to History Program

G. Sears gave an update on behalf of S. Muldoon regarding the progress of the Passport to History program. A mock-up copy was made available for review and its components were elaborated upon. The new design was configured with recommendations from the teachers, specifically, the larger size and the tear-out sheet. Commission members were accepting of the new design. S. Muldoon will act as the sole contact with the 4th grade teachers for the launch, delivery of passports, and conclusion of the program. Price quotes will be acquired soon. J. Giannettino recommended a quote from Art Craft Press on Seward Avenue be sought as their prices are reasonable and they offer a quick turnaround. Prizes will be

determined based on the remaining budget after the passport's printed materials are purchased. Also, a new stamp and possibly ink pad will need to be acquired for new participant City Hall, which will come out of the passport budget. Commission members believe the stamp was originally drafted by Staples. G. Sears agreed to provide that for City Hall. S. Muldoon previously informed G. Sears that the teachers suggested day passes to Champions for Life could be a prize option, which cost \$5 each. J. Kline suggested Angelo's pizza should a pizza party still be a prize option as it has been in the past. With 341 students recorded in September 2015 as being in the 4th grade class, 350 copies will be made to accommodate every student while also maintaining a small supply in the event any students began after beginning of the school year. The program will run from 4/15 – 6/6/16, enabling students the opportunity to capitalize on their spring break, which occurs shortly after the commencement.

Unfinished Business

B. Chabot remarked that Lacresha Berry, who proposed the *Brown Girl Blue Grass* show, has not maintained contact and thereby will not be affiliated with the Commission. The general consensus was the event would not be lucrative so no further action will be taken and the conversation has wrapped.

M. Alberici is the current Commission Chair. Rev. P. Carter is the current 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.

New Business

The Committees document was shared with commission members. Both the Community Outreach and Finance committees are now without a chairperson. Discussion of this topic will resume at the May 11 meeting in order to fill these vacant positions.

Announcements

Commission Members shared upcoming events at their sites.

J. Kline announced the BID is promoting what she refers to as Auburn's 'North by Northeast' celebration. This will be the fundraiser for Art Wenzel and is called Art's Inhale. It will take place on Saturday 3/12 from 1:00 – 11:00 pm on the first block of State Street. Majorpalooza will be on Sunday May 29th, the day before Memorial Day. So far 3 tents have been proposed. The event will feature vendors, a kids' stage on Exchange Street, and a variety of craft beers and other drinks. At 8:30 am the

downtown 5K runs will begin on the Loop Rd. and Genesee Street block. This is one of three events that qualified for a \$10,000 grant for entertainment along with Auburn Public Theater. Winterfest/IGNITE the Winter was successful. The Model T club event will bring in 500 people who will be staying in Auburn for one week.

M. Clary announced Auburn Public Theater has a full schedule for the year. The past week alone has had four sold out shows. On a personal note, she informed the commission of her upcoming departure from APT this May as she will be attending Grad school to become a high school Latin teacher after a summer of travel. So far she has received one acceptance and is on the wait list for another school. This April features the Phoenix Players' actor portrayal plus inmates on screen performing "Human Again."

B. Chabot announced on behalf of Schweinfurth Art Center their Perfect Pairings event will take place on 3/19/16.

J. Giannettino announced that City Hall has funds allocated in the budget to refurbish the exterior of the building. They are actively seeking building painters though they have discovered the challenge has been in finding a company willing to do the pillars. He also talked about a program called HEAL which is focused on solving the local Heroin drug problem and the controversial plan to provide safe injection locations and counseling to people using the drug. B. Chabot asked if any of the Historic or Cultural Sites can present art revolving around this theme for awareness. She also offered the idea of researching the Seward archives to find instances of addiction to possibly host another "Untold Stories" series. She then went on to request J. Giannettino invite the council members to gather at the Seward House Museum or another site prior to a future Council meeting for 30 – 45 minutes to enlighten them about the Historic and Cultural Sites program. Since many council members are new, they were not present at the presentation given last October at the City Council meeting, so a meet and greet would be a good opportunity to introduce new City Councilors to Auburn's Historic and Cultural Sites Commission.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by K. Walker at 10:55 am and the motion was seconded. B. Chabot then invited members to tour the new Seward House Museum exhibit. **The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:30 am on 5/11/15 at the Willard Memorial Chapel.**

Minutes by Gillian Sears