

AUBURN'S HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from March 13, 2019 at Auburn Public Theater

Present: R. Bradley, B. Chabot, A. Daddabbo, J. Giannettino, J. Kline, K. Kuhl, D. Lamb, B. Louis, K. Wise

Excused: M. Alberici, Rev. P. Carter, S. Kline, S. Muldoon, D. Stankus

Absent: E. Onori, K. Walker

Guests: Chuck Mason, City of Auburn; Jessica Armstrong, County Historian's Office; Courtney Kasper, Equal Rights Heritage Center; Christopher Malone, CNY Arts; Kimberly Szewczyk, Harriet Tubman National Historical Park;

Christopher Malone, the Grants and Public Programs Associate from CNY Arts joined us to share information about the events calendar on cnyarts.org, which links to Auburn Arts. CNY Arts represents six counties, and though Cayuga County is not officially included, members such as Schweinfurth Art Center, Seward House Museum, and Auburn Public Theater have been invited to share events on this platform. The online calendar, which sees 10,000-20,000 hits roughly per month, will be undergoing a refurbishment for easier use by visitors. Also, the use of tags can assist visitors in finding events. Currently, there are approximately 4,000 events listed on the calendar. D. Lamb suggested an AdHOC committee be created to explore this further as a group.

Call to Order

The bimonthly meeting of Auburn's Historic and Cultural Sites Commission was called to order on March 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. by D. Lamb. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes

A. Daddabbo made a motion to accept the 1/9/19 minutes as submitted, and the motion was seconded. **All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Approval of the Finance Report

G. Sears presented the Finance Report. J. Kline made a motion to accept the finance report as submitted and the motion was seconded. **All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Site Directors

Site Directors' written reports were included in the packet. Discussion commenced.

Marketing Committee

J. Kline reported updates regarding the rack card, which is now available, and the tablet map, which is being redesigned as a folding map that will more closely resemble the rack card design. The next marketing committee meeting will take place on 4/30/19 at 9:00 AM at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center (ERHC).

New ads using the new rack card images have been created for spring and summer advertising in the Skaneateles Directory and July/August edition of Life in the Finger Lakes magazine.

Passport to History

D. Lamb reported the program has kicked off and sites are already seeing fourth grade visitors and their families. K. Szewczyk stated National Park week will occur in April, enabling 4th graders to access national parks for free with their families. This will collaborate well with the passport program.

G. Sears reported on behalf of S. Muldoon. She thanked K. Szewczyk from the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (HTNHP) and Zach Finn from the Seward House Museum (SHM) for conducting the presentations in fourth grade classrooms. All of the feedback from teachers has been very positive. Any questions can be directed to S. Muldoon directly or through G. Sears. S. Muldoon will contact the sites within the first two weeks of May to collect the family memberships and site mementos for the Grand Prize.

New Business

G. Sears informed plans for the Auburn Across America tour have been postponed until 2020.

K. Szewczyk announced she is now a permanent fixture at the HTNHP and looks forward to the 2020 projects.

J. Giannettino stated the City of Auburn will begin 2019-2020 fiscal year budget drafting in April. He and C. Mason explained changes to expect regarding the budget for the commission as well as administrative handling. As of 7/1/19, the contract with the tourism office to perform administrative duties will transfer to ERHC.

R. Bradley stated 2019 is the centennial celebration of city/village/town historians. J. Armstrong is compiling the list of historians within Cayuga County. C. Mason informed that a city of Auburn historian would be appointed by Mayor Quill.

D. Lamb stated the DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) features several historic and cultural sites. C. Mason stated the final project details will be announced soon.

A. Daddabbo told about upcoming events at Auburn Public Theater with people of color and women's themes.

Old Business

None to report.

Announcements

Commission members shared news about and upcoming events at their sites.

C. Kasper announced an estimated 300 people attended the first annual Harriet Tubman Day on 3/10/19. SHM and HTNHP saw impressively large crowds on that day as well (remarkable since both sites are closed on Sundays in March.) Karen Hill of the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. was present. Planning is underway for the event to recur in 2020.

A. Daddabbo announced Anne Mlod has taken over ESR at Genesee Elementary and teaches ukulele.

R. Bradley announced the book club at ERHC has been very popular, even with participants from outside the city.

C. Kasper confirmed the event occurs on the first Monday, monthly.

B. Chabot announced the new exhibit at SHM featuring Margaret Stewart is expected to open late March.

B. Louis announced the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce is hosting Business After Five tonight at Holiday Inn in collaboration with the Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Adjournment

D. Lamb adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m. A motion was made by A. Daddabbo and seconded. **All were in favor and the motion carried.**

The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on 5/8/19 at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.

Minutes by Gillian Sears