

**Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District
Minutes of June 22, 2023**

Members in Attendance: Barbara Watkins, Karin Watkins, Kris Kanter, Seth Keyes, Ben Elliot, Robin Helfand, Talya Leodari, Carli Scolforo, Elissa Haskins-Vaughan

Also Attending: Laura Brennan (BRPC), Wylie Goodman (BRPC), Chris Rembold (Town of Great Barrington)

Not Present: Sally Michael Keyes, Betsy Andrus

This meeting was conducted by remote participation as stated on the agenda. Seth K. called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Approval of Minutes of 05/18/2023 – Barbara W. made a motion to approve the minutes. Elissa H.V. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara W. noted that expenses for social media totaling \$4,250 were paid since the last meeting, leaving available \$18,158.50. The group is slated to approve bills at this meeting totaling \$8,550. This would bring the group's remaining balance to \$9,608.50.

Bills to Approve for Payment – Chris R. reported that the group has bills to approve, the first related to ArtWeek, which will be paid to BRPC for their work coordinating and promoting the event. The second is a bill for Berkshire Camino for the downtown walking tour. The third is for Dr. Hayes for the previous session's DEIA training. The total for all three bills is \$8,550. Barbara W. made a motion to approve. Karin W. seconded. The motion to pay all three bills was approved.

ArtWeek Berkshires 2023 Update – Laura B. shared that the group has been working with a graphic designer to refine the logo and messaging before asking people to register. BRPC also has a new intern who will be starting soon, Alison Zhang. Alison may be participating in the next DGB meeting if she has availability. A group in Adams is working to become a Cultural District and wants to have a more active involvement in ArtWeek.

Update on Walking Tour / Walking Tour App, as needed – Mindy M. will conduct a preview on Friday of the Downtown Walking Tour, based on the weather, evaluate responses to it, and make adjustments afterward as needed.

MCC FY23 Reporting Check-In: Business Openings/Closings – Lexicon Vibes moved out of their venue to another down the street; Rob's Records is moving in. A French business is moving into Byzantium; the name is not yet known.

MCC FY23 Final Report, Due July – Laura B. has been given information by committee members for the final report. There have been more business openings than closures. She will also report to MCC on the group's work with Dr. Hayes. There is a question in the report about what people see as their highlight of

the year. Robin H. suggested the Walking Tour preceding Berkshire Busk be chosen as the highlight to give attention to two events. MCC is also requesting photos. Laura B. will reach out to Carli S. for photos from Berkshire Busk. We do not yet know what the Cultural District funding will be in FY24. There is a new opportunity to participate in an effort with the Chief DEI Officer for the City of Pittsfield for all Cultural Districts over the summer. It will be free and in-person in Pittsfield. Details once they are known.

Barbara W. made a motion to adjourn. The group agreed to adjourn. The brief business meeting ended at 9:17 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlynn B. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlynn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "B. Smith".