

## **Great Barrington W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee**

### **Zoom Teleconference/Webinar**

#### **Minutes of Wednesday, February 16, 2022 Meeting.**

#### **Open Meeting; All votes are roll call**

**Attending:** Stephanie Wright, Thasia Giles, Barbara Dean, Tim Likarish, Barbara Dean, Gwendolyn VanSant

#### **I Call to order**

Meeting Called to order at 6:35 by Ms. VanSant

Ms. VanSant agreed to facilitate the meeting per Chair's request.

#### **II Review / approve minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from the January Meeting made by Ms. Dean, seconded by Rev Letman.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

#### **III Updates**

Ms. Mugridge shared an update on the materials sent earlier to circulate: Facebook event, flyers, website, and expressed appreciation for the webinar last Friday which was recorded for presentation on Du Bois Day.

Rev Sloan updated that he confirmed slides sent by Gabe at Mahaiwe. Ms. VanSant asked what title for the first event on the 21st. Rev Sloan suggested keeping the original title. Ms. VanSant updated that Dr. French, keynote speaker, sent 1 minute and 4 minute pieces; Ms. VanSant arranged and conducted an additional interview to include.

Ms. Dean inquired about Sheila Jackson Lee's participation and Ms. VanSant said it remains unconfirmed, with communication ongoing. Travel arrangements stalled during cold snap and inclement weather. As a further update on Memorial events, Ms. VanSant offered:

-Michael Curry (NAACP National), Sen Heinz (video), Dr. Battle-Baptiste at graveite, James Weldon Johnson decendent. Almost everyone who affirmed participation will at least contribute virtually if not able to travel. Many are intrigued by conversations happening and will remain in touch.

-*Knock Me a Kiss* is sold out. Finerty & Stevens opened up overflow and a streaming link for additional participants, which will include gravesite stone unveiling. The Fairgrounds has opened up parking, and PD will be supporting.

Ms. VanSant raised a question about Legacy Committee funding and inclusion of family names on the back of the stone.

Ms. Mugridge asked if a motion now is appropriate. Ms. VanSant said that a discussion to explore followed by a consideration of the estimate would be best. Mr. Likarish put forth that this feels like an appropriate thing for this group and the town to support.

Rev Letman made a motion for the committee to get an estimate to consider funding adding family names to the stone.

Discussion: Ms. Dean asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Likarish suggested that while some of the money that has been committed has stipulations (ex. Around funding the festival), we can look at remaining funding for this.

Ms. VanSant updated on the video production for the in-person portion of the event on the 23rd. We will need to build out that list. Jeff Peck Jr. & Sr. have confirmed attendance. Ms. Wright presented pricing for cupcakes & birthday cake from Big Y, and asked if we would like a full sheet w/photo or cupcakes. Ms. VanSant affirmed that in COVID individual portions would be necessary. Mr. Likarish offered that \$600 has been allocated for gifts and related items, like the cupcakes.

Ms. Dean asked if the event would be open to the public, and Ms. VanSant explained the fifty person limit would be for family and special guests.

Mr. Likarish asked Ms. Wright to have the invoice made out to the committee, and affirmed that it would be paid by the town.

Discussion: Does the committee want cupcakes and picture or picture on cupcakes? Members affirmed Ms. Wright's decision would be good, and putting up a picture display would be good. This would reflect images on banners.

Ms. VanSant asked if anyone had followed up on gift bags. Members answered in the negative.

Ms. Giles updated that plans for the drumming workshop are good. Preregistrations are coming in. JP will print and offer hard copies for folks to take away on Sunday, and events will be promoted as part of the event. Ms. Giles expressed excitement to be able to move forward in person with COVID safety protocol in place. Estimated event will run about 1.5 hours, including movement together, an offering and Q&A with the artist. Ms. VanSant asked if Ms. Giles could send Jacob's Pillow link to our group, and said that a Memorial guest contingent will be joining.

Mr. Likarish asked about acquiring participant analytics. Ms. VanSant will provide those for the webinar, and the Mahaiwe would have YouTube analytics. Rev. Letman said we will ascertain after the fact. Ms. VanSant reminded that the numbers will also grow with later views, but we should give Mahaiwe the heads up about collecting the data. Mr. Likarish also asked that any issues coming up around invoicing could be resolved by using his personal card and navigate reimbursements. Ms. VanSant noted that Dr. French has declined a stipend, noting he would appreciate being hosted in the Berkshires!

Ms. Dean reminded all that her radio show would be hosting Ms. VanSant at 8pm this evening to discuss the Festival, and will make the recording available.

Ms. Dean asked if the Mahaiwe site was the only place to view. Ms. VanSant said that Ms. Mugridge created a YouTube site for the committee for lengthier videos, but it does not look like we will need it for overflow. Ms. Giles noted that the Mahaiwe has clearly noted on the page where videos will be posted.

Ms. VanSant noted that folks do need to register on Finnerty & Stevens link for COVID purposes (for First Congregational & Finnerty & Stevens) and that we would be asking participants to continue to mask.. Given ticket reservations for the play on Friday, we expect a similar full house on Saturday's memorial.

#### **IV Du Bois festival and Feb 23, 2022, birthday celebration**

See above.

#### **V Announcements/ Citizens Speak**

Invitation for citizen speak time by Ms. VanSant

#### **VI Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Rev Sloan

Meeting adjourned at 7:18