

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

Great Barrington Fire Station, 37 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 18, 2018 Meeting

Attending: Barbara Dean, Emily DeVoti, Wray Gunn, Justin F. Jackson, Reginald Leonard, Gwendolyn VanSant, Freke Vuijst, Randy Weinstein, Stephanie Wright.

Absent: Julie Fagan, David Magadini, Leah Reed

Also attending: Berkshire country residents and dedicated Du Bois volunteers Tim Likarish, James Manning, Sara Mugridge.

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Randy Weinstein called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

### **2. Approval of the minutes.**

The minutes for the meeting of November 28, 2018 were reviewed by the committee.

Wray Gunn made a motion to approve; Barbara Dean seconded.

Vote: in favor, unanimous.

### **3. Committee Announcements/ Updates**

#### Fundraising letter:

Barbara Dean and Emily DeVoti shared the fundraising letter that they drafted. Feedback was offered. Ms. DeVoti will incorporate the feedback, striving to make it one page on Town Legacy committee letterhead. She will then share it with the group and make it available for any committee member to use to raise money on behalf of the committee.

#### Current Funding update:

Ms. VanSant announced that we have received the check for \$5,000 from Greylock Federal Credit Union. Berkshire Bank has said they would like to match this amount, but we need to apply through their official system. Ms. DeVoti and Ms. VanSant will sit together and submit the application on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Google doc for Du Bois festival events

Ms. VanSant sent out a link to a google form which any of the committee members can send to people or groups hosting a Du Bois event during the festival. The written event entries should be copy ready. They can then be included in Du Bois festival press and event information. Ms. VanSant asked for someone from the committee to collaborate with JV at Bridge on checking this document; Ms. DeVoti volunteered.

#### Thank you letters

Randy Weinstein has agreed to send out thank you letters to donors on behalf of the Legacy Committee.

#### Festival Website

The url will change from dubois150th.com to duboislegacyGB.com

Tim Likarish is working on this. Those clicking on dubois150th.com will be rerouted to the new site name.

#### Festival flyer

Sara Mugridge volunteered to help with the flyer for 2019 festival, populating last year's template with new events, and changing the background color from golden to a new color theme. Justin Jackson suggested the Pan African colors, to go along with the theme of this year's festival. The committee agreed.

### **4. Old Business**

#### Program Subcommittee

The Du Bois Legacy Committee Program Subcommittee met on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Program subcommittee members include Ms. Dean, Ms. DeVoti, Mr. Gunn, Prof. Jackson, Mr. Likarish, Ms. VanSant, Ms. Wright – with Mr. Weinstein as an alternate. Also attending were community member volunteers: Tim Likarish, Sara Mugridge, and Chantal Leven.

#### MLK Day: 1/21/2019

Panel discussion: Dr. Frances Jones Sneed has confirmed she will be on the panel, joining confirmed panelist Wesley Brown and moderator Justin Jackson.

Prof. Jackson said that he will start the panel by letting each panelist speak on MLK for 10 minutes, then will ask them questions to foster a lively discussion. He asked the committee to please send him questions to ask if anyone has ideas.

Reginald Leonard suggested the question: What would MLK think of players who choose to "take a knee" during the National Anthem?

Interfaith update from Wray Gunn:

The budget of usually \$2K from the Clinton Church Project will not happen this year.

Olga Dunne dance school is still available.

Interfaith will transfer grocery coupons for morning reception.

Need to reach out to Pastor Cara Davis of First Congregational to re-ask for space.

Mr. Weinstein will stop by the church and talk with Pastor Davis, to ask for the church space from 8:00 am to 3pm.

Mr. Gunn will talk with Olga Dunne about performing during the reception.

Someone needs to talk with Kathleen George from Interfaith about the transfer of food vouchers for the morning meeting time (coffee/donuts). Who will do this?

Sara Mugridge will ask a friend associated with the Montessori School if she can organize some children to provide a pot luck for the afternoon reception.

Update on volunteer opportunities:

Stephanie Wright has an opportunity with the Sheffield Food Pantry – boxing up food for their 45 families. But it's early: 8:30 to 10am. The pantry will provide transportation from Great Barrington.

Ms. VanSant reported that another service opportunity will be painting the dining hall at Macedonia church. Chantal Leven, another Smith College intern, and Stephanie Wright are arranging more service opportunities.

Schedule for MLK day:

8:00am: set-up

8:30am: early bird volunteering (Sheffield Food pantry)

9:00am: all gather, be directed to volunteer/service activity

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.: service/volunteer activity, off-site or on-site

12:00 – 1pm: panel discussion and dance performance

1:00 – 2pm: reception, sharing from service opportunities, library exhibit

If we pass the plate, as is customary for the MLK day, we need to decide where the funds will go. Idea proposed to donate funds to a global organization, in reflection of this year's Du Bois festival theme. Also, perhaps, to split the funds with the Du Bois festival fund.

That evening, Simon's Rock would like to host a screening of something in honor of MLK day, inviting the community. Prof. Jackson suggested perhaps he host a screening of *Du Bois in Four Voices*.

Du Bois Birthday Celebration: 2/23/2019

Ms. Dean is in the midst of inviting musicians – also perhaps spoken word and maybe even Olga Dunne again. The committee confirmed it has budgeted at least \$100 per musician.

Mr. Weinstein confirmed that David Levering Lewis will be here for the birthday!

Tentative format for the evening: talk by David Lewis, followed by musical celebration.

Location: St. James is booked, so Mr. Weinstein will approach the First Congregational Church.

#### Legacy Committee Budget 2019 – 2020

Ms. Vuijst reported that our 2019-2020 budget request is due to the town by early January.

Ms. Vuijst will submit the budget to the town by early January.

The committee discussed the budget proposal and agreed on an amount – comprised of:

Cost for festival programming

Legacy Committee website maintenance

A Miscellaneous budget to cover other events and programming that the committee would like to host throughout the year.

Possible future events: a half-birthday celebration in the summer, including some kind of dramatic reading or other event, perhaps at the Du Bois Homesite or at the Green River.

Another possibility to discuss for the future is an annual Du Bois Scholarship for a local high school graduate, perhaps for a student of color.

Motion: Ms. DeVoti made a motion that Ms. Fruijst make a budget based on these agreed upon costs and submit it on behalf of the committee. Because of time pressures, she will submit the budget before the next Legacy Committee meeting, but will send the budget proposal to the committee members before officially submitting it to the town. Mr. Weinstein seconded this motion. The committee voted unanimously in favor.

## **5. New Business**

### Sister Cities: GB and Accra

Jim Manning proposed that the Committee pursue making Great Barrington and Accra, Ghana, sister cities through the official organization Sister Cities, International.

The annual cost would be \$350. The agreement would entail an official of Great Barrington and the Mayor of Accra both creating and signing a document listing the mutual benefits of being sister cities.

Great Barrington is a sister city with Ingersoll, Ontario (Canada) and Fada N'gourma, Burkina Faso, but those sisterhood arrangements are not through Sister Cities International and don't seem to have any official foundation – Mr. Manning is looking into it.

Accra is the death place of Du Bois. They also have a Du Bois center which is active but in need of funds and updates.

Mr. Weinstein made a motion that the committee members review the Sister Cities International website <https://sistercities.org/> between now and the next meeting. Then, at the next meeting, we will vote on whether to recommend to the Great Barrington Select Board that the town become sister cities with Accra. Motion seconded by Ms. Vuijst. Vote: in favor, unanimous.

#### Du Bois Pioneer Award

For the past 22 years, Mr. Weinstein has been giving the Du Bois Pioneer Award, to someone in the community who has made a difference in the spirit of Du Bois.

Mr. Weinstein proposed handing over this award to the town, via the Legacy Committee, to give out in the future. This year, as an interim year before the policy is set, he proposed that the committee present the award to David Levering Lewis, Du Bois's biographer who has done so much on behalf of Du Bois and given his time and expertise so generously to the town over the years.

Mr. Weinstein made a motion that the committee present the Du Bois Pioneer Award to David Levering Lewis in 2019 during the Du Bois Festival. Ms. Vuijst seconded. The committee voted unanimously in favor.

### **6. Citizens Speak Time/ Committee Member Comments**

#### The Du Bois Statue

Ms. Vuijst would like to present the committee with the possibility of creating an exploratory group for the Du Bois Statue. Ms. Vuijst will write up the duties that serving on this group would entail and present it at the next Legacy Committee meeting.

Ms. VanSant expressed concern that this may not be within the scope of the Legacy Committee. Does the committee need to check in with the Selectboard before forming such a group? This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

## 7. Next Meeting - Adjournment

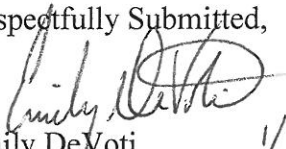
Concern was expressed that daytime meetings are not good for some of the committee members and that we should return to Wednesday early evenings.

The next meeting date is set for **Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:15 – 6:45pm**, at the Firehouse.

Future meetings will be scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, 5:15 – 6:45pm at the Firehouse.

Ms. DeVoti made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Weinstein seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Emily DeVoti

Recording Secretary

1/22/19