

Brewer Arts and Culture Committee
11/18/2024 - Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:01 PM

List of persons present:

Eric Glidden, Susan Xirinachs, Amanda Clark Oulette, Edner Pelkey-Fago, Ann Colson, Tammy Lund, Steven Wong, Ashlie Beals, Jen Morin, Michele LaBree Daniels, and Joy Sinclair.

Joy Sinclair motioned to accept the October 21 meeting minutes. Ashlie seconded, all in favor.

Update on the Bylaws: Joy Sinclair updated the group to narrow the Bylaws, and reminded folks that they are available in Google Drive, which everyone has access to.

Edner Pelkey Fago motioned to table the adoption of the minutes until next meeting, as the edits have not been reviewed with Eric.

Update on Wreaths Across America (Susan Xirinachs)

We have 36 wreaths left to sell to cover all of the veterans' graves in Brewer and we will be at goal! The report for the wreaths must be in by December 3rd.

Michele suggested having the folks from WOA come to Brewer Business Alliance next September to talk about it.

We haven't had much response from Brewer schools, but the after school program at the Rec Center has made cards and posters.

Jen Morin suggested that we get the information out publicly next year in advance, now that the committee has been formed.

We will have the Ken Hanscom room in the Brewer Auditorium for the awarding of any prizes on Friday, December 13 at 6 p.m.

We still do not know when the wreaths will arrive, and may not until that week. We will begin laying the wreaths at 9 a.m. Saturday and need volunteers to do that. Soubanh previously stated he would be bringing volunteers to help lay wreaths. When laying wreaths, volunteers will be receive written instructions to say the servicemember's name and say, "Thank you for your service."

Eric stated that the official ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial at the Brewer Auditorium (at 12:15 p.m.) will begin with remarks from the Mayor and a Color Guard. Wreaths will be placed on easels for each branch of service, and Doug Farnham will speak.

Tammy can head up the Day Road, Joy can do Oak Hill, and Susan or Edner can do Woodlawn. Michele noted that if we have extra wreaths, there is also a Veterans Memorial at Oak Hill.

Tammy's son is a Civil Engineer in the Air Force and Kevin O'Connell was also in the Air Force. Edner's husband Bob was in the Coast Guard. Mandy is checking on someone in the Marines to have a representative there.

Update on Tree Lighting Ceremony/Holiday Event (Tammy Lunn)

A subcommittee meeting was not held. Michele updated us that Soubanh has contacted Santa and Mrs. Clause, and has been trying to contact the Community School, and there will be a choir from the Mormon church.

Edner Pelkey Fago mentioned that we need to set communication expectations when a member states there will be a subcommittee meeting, they are responsible for setting up a date and time for that meeting.

November 30th will be the date. Michele thinks that Soubanh mentioned a time of 6:00 p.m. Mandy would like to join the subcommittee, and she stated she would ensure that members of the subcommittee set a meeting date. The subcommittee consists of Tammy Lunn, Steve Wong, Ann Colson, Mandy Ouelette-Clark, Susan Xirinahs, and Soubanh Panthay.

*UPDATE from Councilor Daniels 11.20.24: The event will be held on Saturday, November 30 at 6 p.m. in the Childrens' Garden area of the Riverwalk.

Update on Riverwalk Festival (Steven Wong)

Seven different committees, mostly single-person committees currently.

Food Trucks - 2 people, not mentioned

Fundraising - Steve Wong and Donna LePage

Entertainment - 1 person, not mentioned

Craft Fair - 1 person, not mentioned

Business & Non-profits - 1 person, not mentioned

Marketing - Renee Doble

Eric mentioned that folks were looking for trash cans last year, and Steve mentioned that the craft vendors would have liked to be able to purchase food.

There were about 5000 people at the event last year.

Eric asked for a breakdown for where volunteers are needed, so that members can circulate a sign-up sheet at our next meeting.

Michele suggested that Steve ask Renee Doble to email the Culture & Arts Committee members to keep us apprised.

There was no public comment, as no members of the general public were present.

Joy Sinclair motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Edner Pekley Fago seconded, and all were in favor.