

Brewer Arts & Culture Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/24/2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Brewer City Hall

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Tammy Lunn at 6:00 PM.

II. Roll call

Members Present: Soubanh Phanthay, Michele LaBree Daniels, Kathleen Kramer, Ashlie Beals, Mandy Oullette-Clark, Ann Colson, Susan Xirinachs, Joy Sinclair, Steve Wong

III. Old business

1. Adoption of January 27 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion: Mandy moved to adopt the January meeting minutes
 - b. Second: Ann seconded the motion
 - c. The motion passed unanimously
2. March member appointment
 - a. Michele has someone who may be willing to join the committee and take the position of secretary
 - b. Ashlie volunteered to fill in until a secretary is chosen - we will vote on this next month in case we get the new member
3. Update on Wreaths Across America
 - a. Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Joseph Ferris Community Center
 - b. We will be needing more wreaths as we have realized that there are more graves that are not marked adequately
 - c. A letter will be sent out to businesses by Eric in short order, and the focus this year will be on contacting individuals who want to purchase a wreath to honor a family member
 - d. There will be a subcommittee formed for this in the coming months
 - e. Mike from Parks and Rec will be mapping the graves and they will be removing the flags and wreaths from the cemeteries this spring

IV. New business

1. Update on Riverwalk Festival - Steve Wong
 - a. Tentative schedule was handed out for event activities
 - i. Soubanh updated us that Selfie Space will be closing, so that will be coming off the schedule
 - b. Volunteers are needed for all committees (handout given at last meeting with volunteer positions)
 - i. This will include a walk of the route for all volunteers prior to the festival
 - c. Last year's sign up sheet was put online via the Economic Development office
2. Michele will be offering a tutorial one on one to help folks with Google Docs so that meeting minutes and agendas continue to be accessible to everyone to add information to

3. Absenteeism protocol request: Please send Tammy a text message if you will not be in attendance: [207.659.4701](tel:207.659.4701)
4. Calendaring:
 - a. Any time you're working on a project that involves Parks and Rec, Amy at Parks and Rec must be notified to ensure that our events are on their calendar
 - b. Every time we are working on an item, we must ensure it
 - c. Key: Purple is our events, Yellow is the Waterfront Concerts, and Orange is the Riverwalk Festival, and Red are holidays
 - d. Tammy would like us to have at least one event a season
 - e. Tammy called for a motion to adopt Saturday, Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m.
 - i. Ashlie moved to motion
 - ii. Susan seconded the motion
 - iii. The motion passed unanimously
 - f. Mandy mentioned that next July 2026 is the semiquicentennial of the United States
 - i. Kathleen mentioned that July 3, 1863 was the battle of Little Round Top, so this will work in perfectly
 - g. Tammy suggested that we work on smaller events that are done really well, versus huge events that we don't have enough people for
 - h. Ashlie suggested a Google calendar. Joy suggested that the City email (arts.culture@brewermaine.gov) should hold that calendar (as we would need it associated with a Google account) and Eric give the committee members permission to view it. Perhaps VP and President could have access to edit it, but not everyone.
5. Collaboration
 - a. Tammy suggested there be a lead on each subcommittee so that Tammy can go to one person to speak for the subcommittee to coordinate events.
 - b. Tammy requested members to let us know what ideas they've thought about for ideas for the committee:
 - i. Kathleen proposed doing something with Indigenous People, given that Native Americans originally lived here
 1. Suggesting a fall date for celebration given that Indigenous Peoples' Day falls in a cold, snowy time
 - ii. Steve suggested an idea from 1976 - having a carnival on the ball fields, something similar to Old Home Days or Winterfest
 - iii. Susan mentioned bringing back Brewer Days as Brewer Autumn Fest - a one day event Sep. 6 or 13 to incorporate the Car Show as it's a widely attended event. Brewer FD, Police, Garden Club, Smokey the Bear (Susan and Kathleen have an in)
 - iv. Steve mentioned different multicultural events that he had done involving the Bangor Chinese School, Russian and Irish dancing, etc.
 - v. Tammy would love to bring back the cardboard sled races at Indian Trail Head Park, with the amphitheater that will be there
 1. She would also like to work with the Rec to do a pet costume parade slightly separated from the children's costume parade, and we could have the Humane Society or Old Town Animal Orphanage bring adoptable pets
 2. She mentioned a pickleball tournament that was a fundraiser where everyone wore costumes since the Community Center does Pickleball, cornhole, or flag football
 3. Witch paddle on the Penobscot in October - maybe we can get the

Zombie walk to come across the river as well as Bangor

- c. How do we create more events that don't cost money? (Like an Art Walk, etc.)
- d. Seed money for events so that they can be free
- e. Tammy posed a challenge who provides cultural activities in the City of Brewer, and who provides arts in the City of Brewer so that we can try to involve them and grow from there

IV. Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance for public comment.

V. Adjourn

- 1. Mandy motioned to adjourn the meeting
- 2. Ann seconds the motion
- 3. All were in favor of adjourning.
- 4. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM