

Notes: Cultural Commission Meeting 4/14/21

Attendees Present:

Carol Bridges, Jack Eggleston, Bonnie Forrest, Liz Hartig, Cassandra Kings, Hana Mitsusada-Boylan, Amanda Petrarca, Patrick Taylor, Steven Rzeppa, Tim Beaker, Wendy Pate

Absent: None

Intro: Mayor Rzeppa Introduced the team, welcomed them and gave an update as to how we got here. The Commission last met in 2005. He thanked everyone for their service to get started again.

1. What is the Cultural Commission: Charter

- While remaining true to the goals set by the charter, you have the creative latitude to mold this group into what you would like it to be. That might be difficult at first, because there is no set agenda or works in progress, you will create these as you go. Tim and Wendy will be there to guide you along the way to move you forward.

2. Who are we: Introductions, backgrounds, why I volunteered

- After introductions, it is clear that the 8 members represent a diverse population living inside the city of Trenton: Native American, Japanese, LGBTQ, and training in anti-racism, certified coach in social work, library sciences/technology, pastor, ESL, Music, band, theater, digital humanities, etc. Each member seeks to make Trenton a more welcoming community in a concrete way, to be more inclusive, dismantle racism, to accept the world around us in a loving way, to support low income families, , and find opportunities to showcase our talented residents, and prepare our young adults to enter in a world that does not look like Trenton.

3. Future meetings: Bylaws, positions, meeting times

- At minimum, the charter requires a chairperson. Patrick Taylor has expressed interest in the chat, and in efforts to put this group into your hands more quickly, he will create and send the next meeting agenda. The position of chair is still OPEN, but will be chosen at the April 24th meeting. The group discussed other positions, perhaps including a revolving secretary to take the minutes. You can add positions into your bylaws as you see fit, those might include treasurer, social media/website person, etc.

- Next meeting date: Saturday 10am, April 24th, location tbd That would set the 4th Saturday of each month as a meeting date, unless you want to adjust that setting. Meetings must be open to the public, and the city needs to have a set date to post on the monthly calendar of events. If via zoom, the link would also need to be posted. Send info to Admin. Asst. Leah Inglehart at City hall: linglehart@trenton-mi.com
- Leah will also need the minutes sent to her after each meeting. Minutes are posted to council meeting agendas as they come in for council to read and place on file.
- Theresa Monthei is our IT person, you will need to make her/invite her as one of your social media page managers, so she can also monitor activity on your site – that would be for your public sites that you use to communicate with residents. tmonthei@trenton-mi.com

4. Short term and long terms goals

- Website development for outreach to community – Liz Hartig
- Communication mechanism for group members only – Facebook
- Mission statement – create, revise – see CP Pate’s document
- Bylaws – find the original bylaws, and/or samples from other commissions
- Define our values/culture of Trenton
- Logo development – Amanda Petrarca
- Seek one member to compete the group – have them go to trentonmi.org to fill out the online application, and send Mayor Rzeppa a note to look out for the applicant
- Other ways to engage residents: ex) parades, military/troops support in May, Pride month in June
- Elizabeth drive residents could support a “tunnel” of lawn signs heading into Eliz Park supporting the commission
- Host an outdoor music event/open mic

Follow up:

CP Pate will prove notes, Human Rights Ordinance and Cultural Commission charter links, documents

Misc info:

\$15 stipend per member for monthly meetings

There are three City of Trenton budget accounts to reopen: 1. Fees – that covers the stipend per mtg of members 2. Misc Events 3. Exhibits and Art Shows

There is one special Revenue Fund of \$2183 tied to a previous event the commission must have held.