

I. Welcome

Amy welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:05 PM. Members in attendance: Amy Lafayette (Chair), Meredith Bay-Tyack (Vice-Chair), KeruBo Webster, Miriam Block, Paul Sarne, and Emily Hecker.

II. Winooski School District Update and Introduction to Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director

Amy introduced Emily to the group, then members of the committee introduced themselves. Emily's update included progress on the status of WSD's Peacejam students, who are interested in events and have been invited to sit on the committee. While they consider a potential committee role, KeruBo also mentioned connecting with other students to see if they would also be interested.

Initial planning has begun for student projects and events, currently including ideas for a large '100-year' cake cutting/all-school birthday party, creating 100 'welcoming & opportunity' birthday cards through an art class, a 'places of importance' map project, and a special song/music video to be created by Amar and Swahili students. The project would be focused on welcoming and opportunity and potentially available in multiple languages. KeruBo has a special connection with these students and has worked on music projects with them before.

III. Budget Approval Update

Amy introduced the item and announced that the full budget was approved with unanimous/positive support from City Council.

A discussion was had regarding how the stipends and W9 forms work and how members would be compensated. While the approved budget only accounts for one stipend related to the Winooski School District, there may be an opportunity for more than one student to join the committee. The budget could be adjusted to accommodate more than one representative.

Amy asked the group what their preference would be for getting compensated, and it was decided that all-at-once in March would be the easiest solution for the City's finance department. Committee members to receive the stipend are as follows: Amy, Meredith, Craig, Kerubo, Joe, Dan, and WSD students. Paul and Emily are paid staff with the City and School and will forgo these stipends.

Next, Amy began the discussion regarding City Council feedback. During the budget approval meeting, Councilor Oakleaf mentioned being mindful of 'landfill' items regarding merchandise. The committee is confident that the selection of items to date is long-lasting and re-usable pieces of memorabilia. The other bit of Council feedback was to possibly create a long-lasting commemorative token – such as a plaque, or a tree, or a time capsule. Councilor Jim Duncan, who is Chair of the Winooski Tree Committee, suggested that he could help us look into grant funding for a 'Centennial Tree' – please see this discussion below (Item V). Bruce Wilson of 'Arts so Wonderful' was also in attendance and had inquired about diverse membership of the committee and whether or not students were involved. It was outlined for Bruce that there are two BIPOC members of the Committee and that we were working on student voices (see item II above) with Stephanie Hackett resigning.

Final notes/questions were discussed regarding invoices and vendors in the City's warrant/payment system. Paul outlined those specifics and asked the group to CC him/Amy/Meredith on any purchases so they could be properly processed.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Centennial Tree and Plaque

Amy began the discussion, letting the group know that an ongoing conversation was being had with Councilor Jim Duncan, who is the Chair of the Winooski Tree Committee, to potentially source and fund a 'Centennial Tree' and plaque. Progress looks good on this front, and the Centennial Committee agreed that it was a most excellent idea. Types of trees and locations were discussed, with an eye on Richard's Park. Emily Hecker mentioned that space was available for a commemorative tree at the Winooski School District too, as recently made available through their Capital Project construction process. Amy also mentioned the need for a grant match and outreach needs to get this done. Councilor Jim Duncan will follow up as he progresses with info about the grant. Paul suggested that the plaque should relate to the City's 100 year legacy of welcoming and opportunity, and perhaps the type of tree could be related to a 100-year lifespan or something within that theme.

VI. Action Items

- CCC members should fill spaces on the tracking sheet where necessary before our November meeting(s)
- Miriam shared an update on the '100-faces' project as part of the larger photo exhibit. Daniel Schechner from Wishbone Collective has signed onto the project to take the photos and is working with Paul and Miriam to set up three sessions to capture a wide variety of demographics – one at the School (20+ students K – 12 @ Winooski School District), one at the Winooski Senior Center (TBD), and one in Downtown Winooski with lots of direct and public outreach. Daniel and Miriam are also looking into the possibility of turning the project into a poster, which may be available for sale/giveaway. Next steps include finalizing those planning processes.
- Joe and Miriam gave an update regarding the Historical walking tour – their next steps are to continue the planning process with a separate meeting in October. A short discussion was had about potential options to make the tour available in other languages/accessibility options. An older 'Discover Historic Winooski' pamphlet had been previously discussed. There are only about 10 – 15 left in the pamphlet kiosk at City Hall, with no other backstock available. Paul offered to make a digital scan of this pamphlet to send to Joe/Miriam for reference while making the new historic tour.
- Joe will also connect with Craig and the Trivia team at Waterworks to obtain the Winooski-themed questions while working on the final list.
- Paul, Amy, and Meredith will meet next week to prioritize merchandise purchasing.
- Amy will continue to work on scouting alternative locations for the end-of-week event, with some leads on the Champlain Mill. Amy and Meredith had a short discussion about the food portion of this event, with input from other members of the committee. If other entities are to provide food for the event who don't own a brick-and-mortar space, the O'Brien Community Center does have the commercial kitchen we may be able to utilize, especially when trying to provide food from the many cultures of Winooski. Meredith has connections with many regional caterers and food service providers in Winooski, work will continue on this front. Kerubo mentioned the importance of this aspect and offered to help however possible

