

Watertown Square Cultural District Partnership

Monday, February 12, 2024, 4:00 pm

Remote

Zoom link: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83683744923>

Meeting ID: 836 8374 4923 Call in: +16465588656

Minutes

Present (15): Liz Helfer (PAC Planner), Jack Dargon (Artist), Jamie Gordon (Russell Cooperative Preschool), Jeannette Belcher-Schepis (Mosesian Center for the Arts, Darren Farrington (MCA), Yasmin Daikh (Friends of Watertown Music), Lois Pond (Watertown Cultural Council), Susan Jones (Artist), Maria Hendricks (Artist), Sam Dudley (WCA-TV), Matthew Stephens (Mt Auburn Cemetery), Stephanie Venizelos (Live Well), Kim Hewitt (Library), Doug Orifice (Business Coalition), and Leah Kotok (Gore Place)

Absent (10): Anastasia O'Melveny, Stepan Chiloyan, Seth Deitch, Joyce Kelly, Perrin McCormick, Arto Vaun, David Knoerr, Jason Sohigian, Rick Saunders, and Nicole Gardner

Visiting (1): Lisa Feltner

1. Welcome by Liz Helfer
2. Acceptance of February minutes
 - a. Motion by Maria Hendricks
 - b. Seconded by Lois Pond
 - c. All in favor
3. Governance
 - a. Reviewed 3rd draft handbook through shared screen
 - i. Review and revisions to Partnership Agreement (appendix A)
 - ii. Reverse order of remote and in person requirement on pg 6 – Jeannette Belcher-Schepis
 - iii. Suggestion: Develop attendance requirements, since there are no term limits for partners – Matthew Stephens
 1. Example from Mt Auburn Cemetery: 75% threshold required
 - a. Consequences are a stern warning
 - b. Failure to change means no term renewal
 2. 1-2 year renewal process or membership review by officers
 - iv. Suggestion: Desire for term limits for partners – Susan Jones
 - v. Suggestion: Desire for term limits with exceptions from Chair/Vice Chair possible or a nomination committee – Lois Pond
 - vi. Opposition to term limits – Yasmin Daikh
 - vii. Other changes made in real time
 - viii. Adoption of document tabled to April meeting
4. Partnership Elections
 - a. April elections

- b. Nominees for officers:
 - i. _____, Chair
 - ii. Doug Orifice, Vice Chair
 - iii. Jeannette Belcher-Schepis, Co-Secretary with Lois Pond, Co-Secretary
 - iv. Appointments to the Partnership
 - 1. Liz Helfer, City Liaison
 - 2. Rick Saunders, Watertown Schools
 - 3. Doug Orifice, Watertown Business Coalition
- 5. Site Visit Preparation
 - a. April 10 morning, 3-4 hours
 - b. Anticipating 5-10 minute stops along walking route, in this order:
 - i. City Hall, meeting group
 - 1. Liz Helfer
 - 2. Jack Dargon
 - 3. Maria Hendricks
 - 4. Yasmin Daikh
 - 5. Jeannette Belcher-Schepis
 - 6. Lois Pond
 - 7. Stephanie Venizelos
 - ii. Watertown Free Public Library
 - 1. Theresa Maturevich
 - iii. AANE Artists Collaborative
 - 1. Anastasia O'Melveny
 - iv. Armenian Museum of America featuring the Watertown Business Coalition
 - 1. Jason Sohigian (AMA)
 - 2. Doug Orifice (WBC)
 - v. Hatch Makerspace
 - 1. Liz will contact Amelia Young to confirm
 - vi. Historical Society of Watertown
 - 1. Liz will contact Joyce Kelly and Marilynne Roach to confirm
 - vii. WCA-TV
 - 1. Samantha Dudley
 - viii. End at Saltonstall Park/City Hall (weather dependent)
 - 1. Gore Place - NAME
 - 2. Mosesian Center for the Arts – Darren Farrington
 - 3. Mt Auburn Cemetery – Matthew Stephens
 - 4. Maybe: Russell Cooperative Preschool – Aaron Caine or Jamie Poulin
- 6. Time did not allow: Review 2-year plan in adopted WSCD plan (plan p21)
- 7. Quick introduction round for new partner from Gore Place
- 8. Next Steps
 - i. Mapping the 2-year plan: set achievable deadlines August 2024-July 2026
 - ii. Think about evaluation metrics for survey (plan p23)
 - iii. Next meeting is remote on April 8 at 4pm
- 9. Adjourned at 5:08pm