

TIMBUCTOO ADVISORY COMMITTEE
10:00AM Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2023

This was a reorganization meeting of the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee.

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Sandy Henley
Kent Pipes
Jennifer Rayford
Sheldon Short
Pastor Terrell Person

Chair Carolyn Chang
Denita Curry
Bill Canteen
Noni Kendall

Township Administrator Wendy Gibson was also present to take notes.

Members in attendance went around the table introducing themselves.

To advise and assist the Township Committee, Land Development Board and Historic Preservation Committee, and any other committees, of all historic significance of Timbuctoo. Chairwoman Carolyn Chang began the meeting by asking for volunteers for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Mr. Pipes thanked Ms. Chang for the years of service to the Committee.

Ms. Chang explained the duties of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions. She noted that minutes and meeting dates and times are all open to the public and are posted to the website.

Ms. Chang brought samples of minutes taken from previous meetings that showcased things the Committee had accomplished. She mentioned the Walk to Freedom, a lecture by Christopher Barton, an Archeologist involved in the dig for Timbuctoo, and a site tour with discussion and reenactment of Harriet Tubman in July 2022. She also noted there are many tours that were cancelled due to lack of participation of members.

Ms. Chang applied for a grant from the County, which was approved for \$2,000.00. The grant requires that certain projects are completed for the year. One that has already been completed was called, "If Dead Folks Could Talk", in honor of Black History Month. The next requirement is a Juneteenth celebration, tours of the site, and a Timbuctoo Day celebration. Activities need to be reported to the County.

Mayor Sandy Henley stated he is available to help. He stated that he and Township Committeewoman Genel Cook-Wright (the liaison) are dedicated to supporting the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee. He volunteered to perform as Interim Chair while the newer members are adjusting. Ms. Chang agreed to allow Mayor Henley to be Interim Chair.

Mayor Henley called for a volunteer for Vice Chair. Denita Curry volunteered to take on the role.

Mayor Henley called for a volunteer as Secretary. Jennifer Rayford volunteered to take on the role.

Ms. Chang addressed item six on the agenda to attempt to plan the rest of the year as much as possible. She stated she wanted to hear from everyone what the program should look like. She stated there are a lot of things that can be accomplished without being on the actual site. She gave directions of the location of the site on Church Street. There is a sign for Timbuctoo that directs visitors.

Ms. Chang asked members what should be done for Juneteenth.

Mayor Henley suggested that the Juneteenth activity occur as the activity planned on June 24th with Pastor Terrell Person.

Pastor Person described a reenactment called “If These Stones Could Talk”, based on the Still Family, to which he is a descendant. She explained that the story was about slaves attempting to buy their freedom in the deep south. The story brings the characters into the Philadelphia area, connected to Doctor James Still of Medford.

Ms. Chang and Mayor Henley discussed the costs associated with the events in relation to the grant amount received. Mayor Henley confirmed that the Township allocated funds in the municipal budget for associated costs to the Committee.

Ms. Rayford offered to make a flyer for the event with the help of the Pastor. Pastor Person stated that it would be a scaled-down version of the full reenactment, which will help with managing the funds that the Committee has.

Ms. Chang stressed that she was concerned about promotion of the events. Mayor Henley offered to speak to the Superintendent to send marketing home with the kids or offer extra credit for the high school students. He also offered to circulate marketing on social media platforms and through family members.

Ms. Chang asked if there were any other conflicting events for Juneteenth. She stated that the event will occur on the Saturday after, which would be June 24th. Mayor Henley stated that the Committee needs to be aggressive with promoting the event. The event is planned between the hours of 1PM and 5PM.

Mayor Henley and Ms. Chang discussed that the Ordinance states that the Committee meets quarterly, and historically were able to utilize Zoom.

The members discussed Timbuctoo Day for a date and location. Ms. Chang stated Timbuctoo Day is always on the site. The Committee will rely on the Township to

prepare the site, which will be in September. Mayor Henley requested that everyone begin to coordinate future events before the next meeting.

Members discussed the authenticity of uniforms and food, and the placement of tables and chairs, and the expected number of attendees to the Timbuctoo Day event. There were questions on fees imposed on vendors.

Township Administrator Gibson explained that we have a food truck Ordinance on file and explained the difficulty of attracting vendors due to the lack of attendees. She also explained that anyone handling food outside of a truck or prewrapped option should seek guidance from the County, due to new Department of Health regulations. Members discussed several food options, and utilizing small businesses within the Township to show support.

Ms. Chang advised to check with the Timbuctoo Historic Society to ensure that there are no conflicts. Mayor Henley discussed some of the conflicting issues with the two groups. Discussion continued with suggestions for use of the Township-owned property on Church Street, and the intent to utilize the structure as a museum. Ms. Chang stressed the importance of the organizations working together for promotion and protection of the site.

Mayor Henley stated that he will start contacting schools and Scouts to market the events.

The members discussed how the Committee's expenses and revenues will be utilized, and how they can properly allocate a budget for events. They also discussed utilizing the local businesses to supply food for the events.

In closing, Ms. Chang provided copies of the Township Ordinance Chapter 73 on the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2023 at 11AM.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Township Administrator