

## **GBA Business Meeting, September 2024**

Present: Amy, Garry, Hannah, Bill, Daniel, Kaitlin, Mik, Isaac, Lisa, Judy, Jane

We are tabling approving minutes from last month. Judy needs to submit them to Amy and Mik

**Finance Update:** Profit and loss to date is still in the red by \$800. We are in the green for August due to office space sponsorship.

**Hannah as full time:** How do we get there financially? Sustainability would come from membership dues. From membership alone we are bringing in just over \$30,000. If we could raise another 30-40 thousand we could ramp up our capacity. Hannah suggests a quiet capitol campaign potentially guided by Gagnon and other business leaders. Isaac suggested Hannah look at CDC grants. This is a one time ask. Who benefits most from a robust business community? Ideas include local banks, Sandri, Big Y, Chamber, Mass development, business incubators, Natalie Blais, Suzanne, Jo and Jim McGovern. Other areas were brainstormed (i.e.-doctors, real estate agents, etc. Isaac suggested a reception.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership** – Have picked up a few new members.

Interns---GCC potential leadership certificate program. <https://communitylearningpartnership.org/>

Trouble is trading a grant write for membership.

**Marketing** – Isaac's red balloons were a big hit. No updates

**Events:** - Next year is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bee Fest. Harvest supper was very well attended. Great blend of local residents and local businesses. Next year GBA should have a table. There were counter arguments to this---people fear that would not be well received because it may appear to commercialize it. Perhaps a better idea is to have board members volunteer.

We are not going to be doing Halloween. Amy will talk with Christy about the possibility of ending the parade on the common. There were a lot of concerns expressed about the Halloween event. It has destroyed the neighborhood Halloweens.

Hannah is going to send out updates on Vintage Days.

Round Tables; Tuesday 9/24 is the roundtable with the police dept about the sub- station. It's at 5pm at the Co-op Community Room. Friday 9/27 3:30 Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

Thursday October 24—Roundtable at 5pm at Four Phantoms. This will be focused on the Wells St corridor. In March, there will be a second listening sessions with the Mayor.

Hannah and Amy are working on a grant to add five bees to the region that would not be downtown.

Industrial park businesses have challenges related to food. A food truck would be really helpful. We are working to try and make that happen.

**Street Scapes**-Hannah got an email from the Mayor's office requesting that we organize a downtown clean up day. Blooming Greenfield could become a 'beautification club' of sorts under the purview of GBA. They could become a 501 C 3.

Isaac made a motion that the GBA support the work required to get Blooming Greenfield to become a 501C3. It passed.

Hannah met with the new Chief of staff and she (C of S) inquired about holiday decorations. She is looking into the city's ability to pay for Snow and Sons doing the installation. Everyone from DPW who helped last year did it outside of their regular work hours. Could the Fire Dept or GCET help with installation? They too have the trucks.