

September 8, 2009, Minutes as approved by the Board on October 13, 2009

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
September 8, 2009, 6:30 PM, Black History Museum**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at 6:33 p.m. Members present were: Bob Madison, Ted Pulliam, Amy Bertsch, Amy Breedlove, Katy Cannady, Mary Ruth Coleman, Henry Desmarais, Bill Dickinson, Peggy Gross, and Laura Mae Sudder.

The Minutes of the May meeting were accepted with corrections. The Treasurer being absent, there was no Treasurer's report. President Davis reported that the Audit Committee of Davis, Breedlove, and Pulliam met on August 6 for the annual examination of the Treasurer's financial records and found them to be in good order.

Old Business

Board Meeting Dates: Davis reviewed the dates for future meetings and noted that the December date may not be needed. It was generally agreed to continue meeting at the Black History Museum.

April History Award Assignments: Davis listed the tasks involved in holding the annual History Awards and asked for volunteers. Coleman volunteered to handle the high school award selection, Sudder volunteered to be responsible for refreshments, and Breedlove volunteered to arrange for the programs. Volunteers for other tasks were to email Davis. The date for the History Awards is April 22, 2010.

Membership Recruitment Brochure: Desmarais presented the new, full-color brochure. There was general agreement that it was a very good product and a vast improvement over the previous brochure, and the Board expressed its appreciation to Desmarais and Greenberg for their work in producing it. Desmarais volunteered to be downstairs at the Lyceum for the coming lecture to meet people as they entered and sought volunteers to help. It generally was thought that the membership table manned by Wilkins at a previous lecture was effective. Desmarais stated that the questionnaires distributed at previous lectures had been productive, and he thought it not necessary to distribute them at the upcoming lecture.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary: Bertsch reported that each locality in Virginia was to assemble a committee to plan for the Anniversary. Alexandria's committee was composed of HARC, OHA, and ACVA. Alexandria's public meeting on the Anniversary scheduled for August 29 was postponed, and no new date has yet been set. OHA is adding information on Alexandria to a state-wide website on the Sesquicentennial Anniversary, which is online at <http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/>

Old Chronicles on Website: Madison reported that he had added to the AHS website a list of all Alexandria Chronicle and Alexandria History magazine articles from before 2006 and that he had scanned two of the articles in full onto the site. Davis reported she had not yet made contact with someone who might be willing for a fee to scan all the articles onto the site. It was generally agreed that she should investigate this matter further, and at the suggestion of Breedlove, that in the case of multiple articles in a single edition of a magazine that the articles should be scanned separately.

Archives: Davis reported that the Archives Committee of Paul, Gross, Greenberg, and Davis had met over the summer and boxed the AHS archives for transportation to the City Archives for storage. Gross presented a list of the contents of the AHS archives and reported that a few items still were missing. Madison was to place a notice in the newsletter seeking the missing items. Gross moved that the AHS archives be sent to the City Archives with a deed of gift. Motion was adopted.

Constitution and By-Laws Changes: Madison reported that the parliamentary expert had stated that the Society membership had the authority to make changes to its constitution and by-laws. A discussion of what changes may be needed was postponed to a future meeting.

New Business:

New Board Members: Davis reported that two people had responded to the notice in the last newsletter seeking new board members. No action was taken at this meeting.

Future Lectures: Madison instituted a discussion of whether AHS should hold lectures in November and June. It was reported that a past lecture in November was not well attended but one in June had been well attended. It was generally decided to hold a lecture in June but not in November.

Overflow Crowds at Lecture: Madison reported that attendance at the May lecture was so great that the hall at the Lyceum could not accommodate everyone and some people had to be turned away. It was decided to place a notice on announcements of future lectures that seating was on a first come, first seated basis.

Committee Reports:

Program Update: Madison reported that the next lecture would be on September 23: David A. Taylor on The WPA Writers' Project in Virginia. Bertsch volunteered to operate the projector. Sudder volunteered to help with lights. Then next following lecture would be on October 28.

Website Statistics: Breedlove earlier had emailed a detailed report of the website use. She summarized some of the findings as indicating the use of the website was generally up, more usage over the summer than in either the spring or winter.

Archaeology: Cannady reported that members of the Archaeology Commission had attended city events related to the Waterfront Plan in order to urge inclusion of historical preservation and historical information in the final plan. She also reported that the Ben Brenman awards for contributions to city archaeology were to be made in October.

HARC: Sudder reported that the Alexandria Forum on Re-discovering the Federal City would be held September 25th and 26th. She reported on a letter from the chair of the Park and Recreation Commission to HARC expressing the Commission's support for the current planning at Fort Ward "to uncover and preserve more of the history and cultural resources of the well-used and well-loved public resource" and to balance recreational use with honoring history. Sudder also reported that the funds received from the earlier gala honoring retiring U.S. Senator John Warner had been distributed to the planned recipients. A future gala is to be held February 6, 2010.

Other Business:

Police Memorial: Bertsch reported on the city's plans to build a new police station and honor fallen officers with appropriate art works. The website for the Alexandria Police Memorial is <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=25006>

New Legislation: Dickinson reported that local area representatives and senators have introduced legislation in the Congress (H.R. 2986 in the House and S. 1525 in the Senate) to establish new authority for the Director of the National Park Service to make grants to states and local governments in the National Capital Region, including northern Virginia, to assist in acquiring land for environmental and historic preservation purposes. Dickinson sought suggestions of local groups that might endorse the legislation. Suggestion was made that AHS might endorse the legislation. Dickinson was to provide further information.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary