

March 9, 2010, Minutes as approved by the Board on April 13, 2010

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
March 9, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at the Black History Museum at 6:30 p.m. Other members present were Bob Madison, Anne Paul, Ted Pulliam, Amy Bertsch, Amy Breedlove, Henry Desmarais, Bill Dickinson, Linda Greenberg, Peggy Gross, Laura Mae Sudder, and Karen Wilkins.

The February meeting was cancelled because of snow.

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as amended..

Treasurer's Report: Paul provided copies of the Treasurer's report and a report of membership and label changes (enclosed). She reported that at the first of the year, 22 old members were dropped for non-payment of dues. There were three new members.

Old Business

Nominating Committee: Davis asked that anyone interested in serving on the committee to nominate officers and board members for the coming year to let her know during or sometime after the meeting. Paul expressed interest in serving on the committee. A suggestion that prospective officers and board members be asked to provide a short biography to be read when the nominations are presented was generally approved.

April History Awards: Dickinson, Chair of the History Awards Committee, reported that 473 letters had been sent to various individuals and groups requesting nominations for the 2010 Alexandria History Award (copy enclosed). To date several nominations have been received. The deadline for mailing nominations is March 12, 2010. Other board members reported that the request for nominations was on the AHS website and had appeared in several local newspapers.

Dickinson also reported that the speaker for the awards night had been confirmed. He is Robert Stanton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget. Mr. Stanton also was a former Director of the National Park Service.

Bertsch reported on preparation of the proclamation signed by Mayor Euille that will be given to the award winner. Senator Patsy Ticer is to make the presentation, and it was generally agreed that T. Michael Miller should be asked whether he would like to participate in the presentation. It is to be the first time the award will be presented after it was named for him.

Madison mentioned that it was important that the person who nominated the award winner be notified that his or her nominee had been chosen to receive the award.

Sudder reported that she had contacted Whole Foods about donating refreshments to be served at the awards ceremony, but Whole Foods had not yet made a decision. Trader Joe's was suggested as an alternative, if needed. It generally was thought that whoever made the donation should receive an invitation to the ceremony and have a card placed at the refreshments table thanking the company for the donation.

Old Chronicles: Davis reported that she had received a set of past *Chronicles* from former AHS board member Bunny Jacob. She will give them to Carrie Joyner later this week so she could begin to scan them onto the website.

Civil War 150th Anniversary 2011: Pulliam reported that HARC, OHA, and ACVA will be holding a third public meeting to plan Alexandria's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The meeting will be held on March 27, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Masonic Memorial

New Business

Polly Hulfish Book: Paul circulated a notebook telling the story of Polly Hulfish, who beginning in the 1960s renovated a number of old houses in Old Town along with an organization she founded called Old Alexandria Restoration. The notebook was prepared by her daughter, Sherry Hulfish Browne. Paul suggested that AHS consider publishing the story as a book, possibly with the help of the Old Town Civic Association and the Historic Alexandria Foundation. Bertsch reported that she had published a book at a cost of \$15 a copy using web-based software. She is to bring a copy of the book to the next meeting. Paul is to contact OTCA and HAF about helping with the project.

Artist Project: Davis reported being contacted by Lisa Collins, who draws historic houses, about possibly becoming a member of AHS and also conducting drawing classes for children during which she would have the children go out and draw some of Alexandria's historic houses. Davis is to bring additional information on this possible project to the next meeting.

Federal Budget for Save America's Treasures grants: Dickinson reported that the President's budget proposes cutting \$30 million from this grant program, which is part of the Department of the Interior's budget. He pointed out that Alexandria has benefited greatly from these grants in the past. The House soon will be holding hearings on the part of DOI's budget that addresses these grants.

Committee Reports

Program Update: Madison reported that the next program will be Thomas E. Crocker speaking on his new book *Braddock's March* on March 24. The following program will

be Tony Cohen, an expert on the underground railroad, speaking on May 26. This latter program will be part of the Freedmen's Cemetery Lecture Program. Pulliam suggested as a possible future speaker Washington lawyer Rawn James, Jr., who wrote *Root and Branch*, a recently-published book about Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall's court battles to end segregation.

Newsletter: Madison reported that the March newsletter had been published and distributed and wished to thank Doug Thurman for his help. Madison also announced that Bertsch will be preparing the April newsletter.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the next edition of the *Chronicle* will be published in April and will contain an article by Jim Bish on the West family of Alexandria.

Website Statistics: Breedlove reported on statistics on the use of the Society's website. Generally, since November the site has received around 100 visitors a day. Most downloads are of the *Chronicle*. (Details enclosed)

Freedmen's Cemetery: Wilkins reported that on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a public meeting at Charles Houston Recreation Center to discuss progress and the current status of the design for the cemetery. Davis gave a short description of the current design.

HARC: Sudder reported on the last meeting of HARC. HARC is considering expanding its membership to include Freedom House and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Also discussed was the Office of Historic Alexandria's History Gala, which was postponed from February to June 5. Additional invitations are going out for the event, and Sudder requested that anyone who knew of someone who should receive an invitation to contact her or Lance Mallamo at OHA. HARC also discussed the city consultant's report on the economic viability of the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary

