

April 13, 2010, Minutes as approved by the Board on May 11, 2010

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
April 13, 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 Anne Paul, Ted Pulliam, Katy Cannady, Mary Ruth Coleman, Henry Desmarais, and Linda Greenberg.

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

Treasurer's Report: Paul provided copies of the Treasurer's report and the Treasurer's membership report (enclosed). She reported that the John Patten Abshire CD will mature April 29, and she suggested that after the CD matures, the funds be deposited in a new money market fund. She also suggested that the Abshire savings account funds be placed into a money market fund. Greenberg so moved. The motion was seconded by Coleman and passed.

Paul also said that it was her understanding that all memorial gifts were to be placed in the general endowment fund, and the Board generally agreed that that was how memorial gifts should be handled.

Paul suggested as a possible use for AHS funds an AHS sponsored bus tour of Fort Monroe in connection with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. She related that, among other things, Fort Monroe was the site of Union General Butler's first use of the legal doctrine of contraband to keep Union troops from having to return runaway slaves, a doctrine that had important implications for Alexandria.

Old Business

April History Awards: Davis and others reported that preparations for the History Awards Ceremony on April 28 are proceeding smoothly. Recipients for the main awards and school awards have been selected and notified. Arrangements have been made for the presentation pieces, proclamation, speaker, refreshments, programs, and other items. Pulliam asked whether the Friends of the Local History/Special Collections Branch of the Alexandria Library could pass out leaflets at the ceremony about their annual meeting in June, and it was generally agreed that they could.

Nominating Committee: Coleman, chair of the nominating committee, reported that the committee still was working on a slate of officers and new board members for next year. Davis reported that of the board members whose terms are expiring, Breedlove would serve another term but that board members Desmarais and Sudder did not wish to serve

again at this time. She also announced that Bob Madison would be stepping down from the positions of Vice President and Program Chair.

Civil War 150th Anniversary 2011: Pulliam reported that on March 27, OHA, HARC, and ACVA held a third public meeting to plan Alexandria's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. There were about 35 people attending the meeting, and after a short introduction by Lance Mallamo, the group broke up into subcommittees. There were nine subcommittees on subjects such as art, education, events coordination, funding, and research and publications. People present signed up for one or more subcommittees and then met with at least one of those subcommittees (each of which was led by an OHA staffer) and began working on projects in their separate areas.

New Business:

Letter of Support for Freedmen's Cemetery Design: Davis reported that the cemetery design would not go formally to the Board of Architectural Review but that its first formal submission would be to the Planning Commission.

She also reported that the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services had requested a letter of support for the design from AHS. She said the design had the general support of the Freedmen's steering committee and the neighborhood where the cemetery is located. Desmarais and Greenberg suggested that an AHS letter should focus on the educational aspects of the design in line with the mission of AHS. After further discussion, there was general agreement for AHS to send a letter of support that focused on the educational attributes of the design. Davis was to draft the letter.

Donation for a Documentary on Mosby in Fairfax County: Davis reported that AHS had received a request that AHS make a donation to help fund a documentary on Confederate General Mosby's activities in Fairfax County. After some discussion, the board generally agreed that AHS funds would be better spent on commemorating Civil War events that took place in Alexandria.

AHS Brochure – Second Printing: It was generally agreed that the new brochure had been a great success, there should be a second printing run, and the run should be of 2,000 copies.

Committee Reports:

Program Update: Davis reported that the May program will be held on May 26. Tony Cohen will speak then on the underground railroad.

Newsletter: Davis reported that the April newsletter had been published.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that she is continuing to work on the next issue, which will be an article by Jim Bish on the West family.

Archaeology: Canady reported that much of the most recent meeting of the Alexandria Archaeology Commission had been spent discussing the upcoming retirement of two key staff members of the archaeology office and a report by consultants appointed by the City Council to examine the functioning of the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, where the city archaeology museum, offices, and store rooms are located. The Commission was concerned that the retiring staffers would not be replaced and that the archaeology facilities would be moved out of the Torpedo Factory before appropriate facilities would be available elsewhere.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary