

NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2011

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
March 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at the Black History Museum at 6:35 p. m. Other members present were Peggy Gross, Jackie Cohan, Ted Pulliam, Lisa Adamo, Debbie Ackerman, Amy Bertsch, Amy Breedlove, Tal Day, Bill Dickinson, and Anne Paul.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jackie Cohan circulated a preliminary membership report that showed the difference in membership between 2010-2011 and 2009-2010 (attached). She also indicated that present income and expenses were not greatly different from those reported last month.

OLD BUSINESS

April History Awards:

Speaker: Davis reported that Vola Lawson, former city manager, is interested in being the speaker for the awards ceremony, but she needs to make adjustments to her other commitments. If she is not able to be the speaker, Davis suggested that Lance Mallamo, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, would be a possible substitute.

Senator Ticer: Davis reported that Ackerman had followed up a letter sent earlier to Senator Ticer inviting her to be a part of the program, and Senator Ticer agreed to participate.

Nominations for History Award: Paul, chair of the history awards committee, reported that nominations for the history award must be submitted by March 4 and that the committee will meet on March 15 to consider the nominations.

High School History Awards: Davis reported that Coleman, chair of the high school history awards, had reported to her that Episcopal High School had responded with its nomination for the high school history award and that the other Alexandria high schools were proceeding in a timely fashion to submit nominations.

Refreshment Donations: Davis reported that the Whole Foods donation and money left over from last year will provide for adequate refreshments.

Programs: There was a discussion concerning the format for the printed award programs, and Bertsch, Breedlove, and Paul agreed to meet to determine the format.

Nominating Committee for Next Year's Board: Davis reported that Coleman, the new chair of the nominating committee, had reported to her that the committee will recommend a slate of officers and new board members as follows:

President: Bill Dickinson

Vice President: Peggy Gross

Treasurer: Rob Stalder

Assistant Treasurer: Jackie Cohan

Secretary: Ted Pulliam

New Board Members to replace Katy Cannady and Amy Breedlove:

Dave Cavanaugh

Adrienne Washington

Paul suggested that the date that a board member's term expires should be printed in the newsletter and indicated on the board's roster. It was generally agreed that should be done.

NEW BUSINESS

Fort Ward/Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery: Dickinson reported that before he could prepare a letter from AHS to the city council, as agreed last month, encouraging the city to hold a special work session to address the African American community at Fort Ward Park, the city already had scheduled a work session to address that issue. He suggested that AHS now should send a letter in support of preserving the graves and history of the community.

Gross circulated a draft letter to that effect and led a discussion on whether such a letter should be sent. Changes to the letter were suggested, including a change adding that the park should be maintained in a suitable condition. Dickinson moved that AHS send a letter along the lines of the Gross draft with changes, and Breedlove seconded the motion. The vote to send a letter was unanimous, except that Davis, Bertsch, and Cohan, city employees, did not take part in the discussion or vote on the issue. Gross agreed to revise the letter and circulate the revision to the board members.

Davis circulated an email from Cannady (attached) suggesting that members to attend the work session in support of the African American community at Fort Ward.

New Donation to AHS: Davis reported receiving an unexpected donation to AHS from Hayden M. Wetzell. Mr. Wetzell donated two items: an old blotting pad with the name of Robert Bell, Bookseller, in Alexandria printed on it and a poster printed in 1858 advertising the horse Ephraim as standing at stud under arrangement with William B. Scarce of Alexandria. After a discussion it was generally agreed that Davis would consult with the Special Collections branch of the Alexandria Library and the Lyceum about donating or loaning the items to one or both of them and report back at the next meeting. Paul suggested that AHS should write Mr. Wetzell thanking him for his donation, and Davis agreed to write the letter.

Children's Program with the Lyceum: Davis reported that she is working on such a program with Leisa Collins and the Lyceum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Gross reported that Dr. James Kelley will speak in March on “English Faces: Virginia Places” about royals for whom Virginia counties were named, and she circulated flyers on the talk for further circulation by board members (attached). She also circulated information on future speakers for May and October (attached). A discussion was held on a possible speaker for June. Gross also circulated a list of publicity contacts for programs (attached).

Newsletter: Bertsch reported that the March newsletter is at the printers and should be mailed this week.

Chronicle: Bertsch reported that she had been working with Greenberg on the next issue, which will contain her article on Volusia, a plantation just outside the boundaries of Alexandria that in the early days of the Civil War was the home of slave owners who were loyal to the Union. She also reported that preparation for publication is proceeding smoothly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary