

## **NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2012**

### **Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society June 12, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Dickinson at the Black History Museum at 6:37 p.m. Other members present were Peggy Gross, Anne Paul, Ted Pulliam, Audrey Davis, Debbie Ackerman, Dave Cavanaugh, Jackie Cohan, Tal Day, and Linda Greenberg.

Dickinson introduced Sarah Coster, a newly elected member of the Board for the coming year.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 8 Board meeting and the May 23 membership annual meeting were approved.

**Membership Report:** Cohan circulated a Membership Report Supplement for 2011-2012 (attached). Among the highlights were that AHS now has 198 memberships as compared with 170 the previous year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul circulated a Treasurer's Report for May 1, 2012-May 31, 2012, a revised membership report based on number of paid members, and a list of new members since May 9, 2012 (attached). She also reminded the Board that the Abshire CD matured on June 6 and that the Board had until June 16 to withdraw or reinvest funds in the CD. Day and Greenberg reported that additional work needs to be done before the funds can be reinvested advantageously. Day moved and Greenberg seconded the motion to withdraw the CD funds and place them in the Abshire Money Market Account until the additional work on reinvestment is completed. The motion passed.

Paul also circulated a history of past actions related to the Endowment Fund (attached).

While Paul was absent, Dickinson suggested that she be made Treasurer Emeritus. Greenberg so moved, Day seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Amendments to AHS Constitution and Bylaws:** Dickinson inquired whether there had been any comments on the draft Constitution and Bylaws that were mailed to AHS members last month (see attachment to last month's minutes). Gross reported that there had been none. Gross reminded the Board that the Constitution and Bylaws are scheduled for a vote by the membership at the June 26 lecture and meeting.

**Board Members Nominating Committee:** Gross reported that it was recently discovered that Greenberg's term on the Board had expired. Greenberg indicated that she would be willing to serve another term. Gross suggested that if the new Constitution and Bylaws are adopted at the June membership meeting as expected, then under the new provisions the Board could fill vacancies and Greenberg could then be selected. Gross

also reported that the nominating committee needed to reconvene to suggest a new member for another Board vacancy.

**Rosenwald School Special Lecture:** Dickinson reported continued community interest in holding an event to celebrate the Rosenwald School and Seminary Schools that were located in what is now Alexandria. He also mentioned the possibility of holding annual events on the general subject of Jim Crow in Alexandria, possibly a symposium every year. One such symposium, he suggested, could consist of a panel of people, such as Connie Ring, who were living in Alexandria when Jim Crow was the law. There was further discussion about building a model of the Rosenwald school. Davis mentioned that Linwood Smith might be able to build a model sometime in the future. Greenberg also knew of another builder of models who might construct a model. Cavanaugh said he would get plans of the school to both Davis and Greenberg.

**1796 Map of Alexandria and Related Ledger:** Dickinson announced that The Alexandria Library Company has raised \$26,000 of the \$30,000 needed to purchase a copy of a 1796 map of the original lots of Alexandria and a related ledger. The money was raised from various local history organizations. A discussion was held concerning whether and how much AHS should donate toward the purchase. Day moved that AHS make a donation of \$2,000 toward the purchase conditioned upon the Board's receiving papers documenting the map and ledger. Gross seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted. Paul announced that celebration of the acquisition of the material would be held at the Beatley Library from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on June 19.

**Annual Billing for Membership Renewal:** Cohan reported that the bills would go out at the end of June and that the bills would include a request for email addresses.

**Past AHS Presidents' Plaque:** Davis mentioned that Jim Mackay, Director of the Lyceum, would be present at a future lecture to receive the plaque the Board had prepared that bears the names of all the past presidents of AHS and that is to be mounted in the Lyceum. Ackerman moved that the plaque be presented at the September lecture. Greenberg seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Paul suggested that all living past presidents be particularly invited to the June lecture for the presentation. The suggestion met with general approval.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Alexandria Chronicle:** Greenberg reported that the next issue of the *Chronicle* would contain an article by Dan Hicks on runaway slaves in Northern Virginia in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Program:** Gross reported that next lecture would be Michael Pope speaking on June 27 about his new book *Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.*

**Newsletter:** Dickinson requested a volunteer to do the newsletter in the future. Cohan volunteered and said she would work with Bertsch on preparing the June newsletter. She also said they would prepare a one-page flyer advertising the June lecture. Dickinson

suggested that it be circulated widely within Alexandria and possibly elsewhere in Northern Virginia also.

**Website:** Dickinson reported that Adamo indicated she soon will send out the latest website statistics by email.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Personal Goals and Ideas for the Board for 2012-2013:** Dickinson asked Board members for things they would like to see the Board accomplish in 2012-2013. Greenberg suggested arranging for history tours of Alexandria conducted by Pam Cressey, Alexandria Archaeologist, and for talks on historical objects by people like Gary Eyley.

Paul suggested re-establishing a close relationship between the Board and the Friends of the Special Collections/Local History branch of the library. A discussion was held about the low level of funding for Alexandria libraries, and Cavanaugh and Dickinson suggested that the Friends group and others should lobby the City Council harder for increase in funding.

Ackerman wanted to increase the audience at the history awards by doing such things as inviting past student awardees to awards presentation and involving the schools more. Dickinson mentioned acquiring funding and panels for annual symposia on Jim Crow in Alexandria.

**Strategic Plan for OHA:** Day mentioned that work was almost finished on a Strategic Plan for the Office of Historic Alexandria. The City Council would vote on the plan on June 28. Davis mentioned that City Council approval of this strategic plan was necessary before OHA and its museums could be accredited. Cavanaugh suggested that the Board should have a copy of the plan before the meeting so that members might lobby for its approval.

**Submission to Virginia State Corporation Commission:** Paul announced that she needed to submit an important form to the Virginia State Corporation Commission and needed a roster of Board members and their terms. Pulliam said he would get a roster to her.

**Annual Audit:** Dickinson requested volunteers for the annual audit of AHS Treasurer's accounts. Day, Cavanaugh, and Coster volunteered to be on the audit committee.

**Association of Local Virginia Historical Societies:** Gross announced that the Central Virginia Historic Associations was gathering at Sweet Briar College near Lynchburg on August 11, 2012 and that AHS was invited to attend.

**2013 History Awards:** Davis volunteered to chair the 2013 History Awards Ceremony. Ackerman volunteered to chair the students' awards. Cohan and Greenberg volunteered to arrange for the food.

**July and August Meetings:** As in the past, there will be no Board meetings in July and August.

**Donation to the Black History Museum:** Pulliam moved that the Black History Museum be given \$250 by the Board for hosting its meetings this year. Gross seconded the motion, which passed.

**Online Surveys:** Dickinson suggested conducting an online survey of members as to their talents, interests, and other related matters once the Board had a sufficient number of email addresses. Various methods and contents of a survey were discussed. Coster mentioned that a link to the AHS survey could be inserted in the Carlyle House website. Greenberg mentioned that previous member surveys should be examined. Dickinson said he would draft a survey and circulate it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam  
Secretary