

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society

April 8, 2014

President Bill Dickinson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Black History Museum. Other members present were Debbie Ackerman, Ted Pulliam, Katy Cannady, Dave Cavanaugh, Jackie Cohan, Audrey Davis, Tal Day, Linda Greenberg, Julie Randle, Adrienne Washington, and Mark Whatford.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: Day moved that the minutes be approved, Ackerman seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Treasurer’s Financial and Membership Report: Adamo was unable to attend, but she indicated that she would email the report after the meeting. It was not anticipated that there would be any concerns.

Webmaster’s Report: Coster was unable to attend but had circulated her report earlier by email (attached).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the next issue of the *Chronicle* was at the printers and would be circulated within the next couple of days. Dickinson questioned the need to send copies to everyone to who has been receiving copies, particularly City Council members. Greenberg reported that she had pruned the list of recipients to some degree. She also said that she usually hand delivered a copy to the mayor to save the expense of mailing. Randle suggested sending a copy of the *Chronicle* to the editor of the Thursday local edition section of the *Washington Post*. Dickinson suggested sending a copy to John Kelly of the *Post*, and Davis suggested sending a copy to Pat Sullivan, the *Post* reporter who generally covers Alexandria. Whatford mentioned that the *Chronicle* several years ago had published a good article on the British coming to Alexandria during the War of 1812 and that it might be a good idea to republish it. Cavanaugh pointed out that the *Chronicle* was on the website. It was thought that a “hot link” should be installed prominently on the website that went straight to that article.

Newsletter: Davis mentioned that she had submitted a change to the website version of the recent newsletter to reflect that the speaker for April 30 would be Patrick O’Neill. Cohan and Dickinson discussed the contents of the next newsletter, which would include items on the O’Neill and Taylor lectures, the history awards, and the April 24 film connected to the commemoration of the War of 1812. Davis said she would send to Cohan a draft of biographical

information for Patrick O'Neill. Cavanaugh said he would publicize the upcoming speakers. He mentioned that he already had distributed material about the history awards ceremony.

Speakers: Ackerman, Dickinson, and Davis reported on the speakers for upcoming talks. A schedule of the speakers in following months is below.

An admission fee of \$5 per person will be charged for talks jointly sponsored by AHS and The Lyceum, but AHS members will be admitted free to these talks. Other lectures listed are free for everyone.

April 23 – History Awards Presentation, speakers: Douglas Bradburn and Father Tom Ferguson.

April 30 – Patrick O'Neill speaks on the Battle of the White House, part of the War of 1812.

Talk is sponsored jointly by AHS and Lyceum

May 6 – Alan Taylor speaks on his book *The Internal Enemy, Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*. The talk is sponsored jointly by AHS and The Lyceum.

May 20 – Mary Ann Jung presents Rosie the Riveter.

May 28 -- Steve Vogel talks on *Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks that Saved the Nation*.

The talk is sponsored jointly by AHS and Lyceum.

June 25 -- Char Bah, Audrey Davis, Gwen Brown-Henderson, Christa Watters, and James Henson speak on their book, *African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century*.

September 3 or 4 -- Andrew Lambert speaks on Admiral Sir Charles Napier, the captain of one of the ships that came up the Potomac River to capture Alexandria in 1814.

Membership: The position of membership chair remains unfilled, although Dickinson pointed out that Coster had reported that many new members had joined via the website.

Archaeology: Cannady reported that city archaeologists are excavating what appeared to be a well located in the basement of what once was a colonial tavern in Old Town.

HARC: Day reported that a contractor is developing a management plan for Fort Ward. He also said that HARC would watch developments at Brown's Mill.

History Awards: Ackerman reported that all student award recipients had been chosen by their respective schools and that she had ordered the awards for them and for the adult award winners. The student awardees were two juniors and two seniors, and they included one student from Ethiopia and one from Great Britain. She also had sent letters inviting the awardees and their teachers to the ceremony.

Ackerman and Davis reviewed the proposed program for the ceremony. They reported that the written program is being developed. Day volunteered to take photographs of the award ceremony. Greenberg said that Trader Joe's will not be providing refreshments but that she had arranged with Fresh Market to provide them.

Nominations: Greenberg reported that the nominating committee for officers and board members for the coming fiscal year will meet on April 17 to choose a slate.

OLD BUSINESS

AHS Brochure: Greenberg reported that she and Adamo are working on a brochure proposal.

Not for Profit Mailing Privileges: Greenberg indicated that she will have more information at the next meeting. Whatford reported that Gunston Hall recently had mailed a postcard to almost 1,140 people at the cost of only \$87, and the response had been impressive. He also said that the post office would give good instructions on how to prepare mailings and that a separate certificate would be required for each zip code to which postcards would be mailed.

Recording the Taylor Lecture: Dickinson asked whether the Taylor lecture should be recorded. Cannady proposed a motion that the lecture be recorded, and Cohan seconded the motion. Dickinson suggested that the motion be amended to include the conditions that the lecture be recorded only if Taylor agreed for it to be recorded and if Jay Bartol would agree to record the talk for \$300. The motion was so amended, and it passed unanimously. Cavanaugh mentioned that the production quality of recordings done previously had not been as good as other similar recordings he had seen. It was agreed that it should be suggested to Bartol to zoom in more on the face of the speaker and any PowerPoint images and try to compensate for the poor quality of the lighting at the Lyceum. Dickinson was to contact both Taylor and Bartol.

AHS Sponsorship of War of 1812 Commemoration Events: Dickinson outlined upcoming activities in Alexandria related to the War of 1812 commemoration. These included the showing of the film *Masters and Commanders* on April 24, a three-hour boat trip to Fort Belvoir and back on June 14, and the raising of banners and flags. Pulliam reported that he and Alexandria Archaeology were talking with the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* about the *Gazette's* publishing a series of articles about how Alexandrians were affected 200 years ago by the War of 1812.

Dickinson also asked for suggestions for a tour guide for the boat trip. People suggested were Michael Lee Pope, reporter for the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* and local author; Garret Peck, author of books on the Potomac River, Prohibition in Washington, and beer brewing in Alexandria; and Sarah Becker, writer of a history column in the *Old Town Crier*.

Whatford asked whether it was in accord with AHS policy to provide funds for such events. It was mentioned that AHS had provided funds for events before, but Day said the issue of providing funds for the War of 1812 commemoration had been discussed previously. When it was discussed, the Board had resolved that it was better for these types of expenditures to be worked into the budget in the future. Dickinson requested that anyone who had contacts with potential large donors to contact him.

Reservations for AHS Members for AHS-OHA Joint Lectures: It was reported that there was a good reservation system available on the AHS website.

Marker for Andrew Wales, Alexandria Brewmeister: Dickinson reported that Andrew Wales was the first brewmeister in the District of Columbia area and that there was an effort to have a plaque commemorating him placed at the Presbyterian Meeting House, where he was buried, or at Wales Alley between the old Fitzgerald Warehouse and Virtue Feed and Grain restaurant.

After a discussion, it was generally agreed that more information was needed before the Board would write a letter for this purpose.

Interpretive Language for the Edmondson Sisters Monument: Several years ago a statue depicting the Edmondson sisters was erected just off Duke Street across from Whole Foods. The sisters were young enslaved African Americans who in 1848 were caught trying to escape to freedom on the ship *Pearl* and held in a slave jail in Alexandria near the site of the statue. Nothing on or near the statue, however, tells who is depicted or why the statue is there. Dickinson reported that draft language apparently was stuck somewhere within the city government, and he suggested that the Board write the Mayor and City Manager urging that the language be finalized and arrangements be completed with the owner of the statue to have it suitably displayed on the statue. Pulliam made a motion to that effect, Greenberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Dickinson is to draft the letter.

Plaque on the Monaco Hotel about the Shooting of Colonel Ellsworth: Dickinson reported that Mallamo, director of OHA, had a plan for obtaining a plaque that would tell about that shooting, but where to place it on the hotel has generated some citizen opposition. It was agreed that Dickinson would draft a letter to the Mayor and City Manager urging that the plaque be mounted.

Virginia Association of Museums: Davis reported that the conference of the Virginia Association of Museums held in Alexandria last month had been a huge success, and she again thanked AHS for its gift in support of the conference..

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam'
Secretary