

Minutes of the Alexandria Historical Society, July 14, 2015

Present: Audrey Davis, Patrick Ladden, Helen Wirka, Sarah Coster, Jim MacKay, Debra Ackerman, Linda Greenberg, Mark Whatford, Dennis Hensley, Jackie Cohan, Katy Cannady and Julia Randle

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were sent out in June. They were seconded and approved. Minutes for April meeting will be approved when pending corrections are made.

Upcoming Program. Audrey Davis reported on program plans. On September 23 our general membership meeting will hear from Dr. David Preston who is the author of a new book on Braddock's defeat. We have no speaker for October at this time.

Treasurer's Report. Tal could not be present, but sent in a detailed report on our expenditures. He also submitted a budget. No one had questions about that.

Mark and Dennis reported on membership. Mark said some of the names we sent dues notices to should be purged. However, we are receiving renewals. Billings for membership dues by e-mail seems to have worked well. Currently we have 156 "active" members and 106 "lapsed" members. We need to concentrate our efforts on active members. Mark suggested we drop non-renewed members in August, but maintain their contact information. We also need to develop new contacts who can be recruited in future.

Chronicle report. Linda said the Chronicle featuring an article about what it was like to grow up in Alexandria during the World War II era will be out in September.

Website. Sarah reported that the website is getting up-to-date. We can get e-mail addresses through the website.

Digital Projector. Jim MacKay has contacted two companies. City employees who use these say that either model of projector would suit our needs and that the cost for each would be less than \$2,000. The Lyceum is now 175 years old. We would need a speaker system there. Audrey has such a speaker system at the Black History Center. Speakers can plug into the projector. We don't know if our next planned speaker would want to use a projector. Dennis moved that we authorize the purchase of a projector at a cost of not more than \$2,000. Tal will decide which funds to use for payment.

Threatened and Endangered Sites. Katy Cannady reported that the Archeology Commission has invited the public to submit buildings or landscapes that should be included on an endangered list. The deadline for submissions is coming up soon.

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Direct Mail. Mark said we need a firm schedule of events before we do a direct mailing on our September or October meetings. We also need more events on our calendar.

Helen Wirka said we could have a January tour of the Carlyle House with the theme of "Behind the scenes on Mercy Street." We could make it into a party-like event. She also suggested we could use survey monkey to get feedback on possible program topics.

Colonel Ellsworth Plaque at Hotel Monaco. Ellsworth's descendants and an historical society near his home in New York State have asked for a second plaque at the Hotel Monaco. Currently the only plaque says the owner of the Marshall House, which stood where the Monaco is today, defended his property. The Hotel Monaco does not want another plaque. Jim MacKay suggested that Sarah Coster rewrite our letter saying we would like a fuller interpretation of the historic events at the hotel. Sarah will re-draft the letter and send it around for comment.

There was general agreement to allow Carlyle House to reprint an article from the Chronicle without saying for specific permission each time. There was a suggestion to consider having an advisory group for the Historical Society. These people would not be expected to attend every board meeting but would be a resource. Helen said such a group had been helpful to Carlyle House [by having emeritus board members assist with certain issues and topics as advisors](#).

Threat to the Ramsay Houses. ARHA which owns these building wants to tear them down and replace them with a much larger mixed income building of unremarkable design. The Parker Gray Board has ruled that the buildings contribute to the historic character of Parker Gray. ARHA intends to appeal that decision to City Council. ARHA's report on the buildings is not yet published.

The next meeting of the Historical Society Board will be on Sept. 1.

Katy Cannady