

**The Alexandria Historical Society, Inc. Board Meeting
Black History Museum
September 1, 2015**

Debbie Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members present included Helen Wirka, Julia Randle, Audrey Davis, Jackie Cohan, Jim MacKay, Jamie Bosket, Catherine Weinraub, Mark Whatford, Sarah Coster, Tal Day, Dennis Hensley and Patrick Ladden. Krotty Connody was absent. Sarah and Jackie had to leave early.

Introductions were made as three new members came on board.

Minutes-Linda Greenberg corrected April and they were passed
July will be approved online

Program Schedule-Audrey Davis had the schedule set for the season (applause!)
It came up that the Board will now charge \$5 for non-members and will need help for the September 23rd lecture selling books; Helen Wirka said she could help

It was explained that the Board or members suggested speakers

People were interested in having a Programs Committee rather than one person to discuss:

- A Children's Program
- Bringing in new members
- Sharing responsibilities with Audrey
- Member only events
- Tours in and out of area

Website-Sarah Coster told us that there were 737 sessions in August and 90% were 1st time visitors; received 35 likes

- The Board purchased a square, which can allow us to receive credit cards at events; need 2 people at each lecture to help with this and a sign up sheet was passed around
- The square allows us to take membership and can email receipts
- Can pay ahead of time (happened 1st time on the 1st for the lecture)
- Can use email for future promotions till person opts out

Treasurer-Tal Day had emailed financial statements earlier in the day with two attachments explaining where the Board stands. Our savings are down but we had to secure the website and it is locked in until 2016-17 year. Tal will need ratification for the endowment and savings (it was moved and seconded to get it on record to do later)

- Funds were used to purchase a projector

- Discussions of paperwork for Tax Exempt Status-this will affect our being able to accept charitable contributions. Our brochures will need to be revised to address this.

Membership-Mark Whatford and Dennis Hensley informed us that there are 179 active members; overdue members are those that expired in 2014 and total 86; lapsed are those more recently and total 161

Chronicle-Debbie Ackerman announced that Linda Greenberg will no longer be editor; Helen Wirka will take over.

-Linda's last article will be on Rudin and about 12 pages long; Rudin wrote about growing up in Alexandria between 1941-51. He is Jewish and includes the family's concerns about events happening in Europe. He also describes a segregated Alexandria. It will be mailed mid-September

-Suggestions: members or outside people contribute to get new ideas and articles; could be shorter with more articles per issue.

-Board suggested in future, members could opt in or out for newsletter, possibly click on a link on the website; could survey members; discuss at a later time.

Newsletter-Jackie Cohan's goal was to get it out by the weekend

-It would include the September speaker, as well as the rest of the year, the lecture fee, January event/Carlyle Walking Tour Event

Publicity-Jim Mackay did not have time to show the new projector and wanted to show it in the room it was to be used. He explained that AHS can't use city equipment for society events.

-Promotion list to go out - 2 weeks list and 1 week still in use

-Cards go out September 9th

-Banner goes up September 17th

- It was brought up that AHS should be partnering with as many historic entities as possible

Why is OHA partnered? Why not formal?

Jim and Helen and others have a meeting on the 2nd for Mercy Street Publicity and Events coming up

Mercy St. - Ft. Ward - CW Med and Marshall House

Black History- Freedmen's Exhibit

Athenaeum- Civil War songs and letters

Potomac River Boats - Boats After Civil War

Private Walking Tours - Hospitals, People, Sites - to show and non-Lyceum

Lyceum - Walking Tour - Civil War Sites

Corner Exhibit - Clarissa Jones

Behind the Show Exhibit

Lecture Series - Medicine

AAC – Debbie presented information from Kroty Connody that the City Council has extended the deadline for the public to submit numerous endangered sites in Alexandria.

AARC – Dennis brought us up to speed on the Ramsay House, built in 1941 – City Council voting September 18th: City proposal to tear down and build high rises
-Discussion of the Board weighing in on this. Board members who are city employees recurred. Remaining Board members support saving it. Dennis will write letter.

Discussion of 517 Prince Street Murray’s Livery and the NVRPA proposal to purchase in exchange for 40 year lease on Cameron Run Waterpark

Dennis made nametags – put together at lecture

Dennis offered to host a Member- Only Event at his residence-314 Prince Street on October 28 before the Lecture. Cocktails and appetizers will be offered. The speaker will be invited.

Oct. 13 – next meeting

Adjourned at 8:41 PM