

**The Alexandria Historical Society, Inc. Board Meeting
Alexandria Black History Museum
February 9, 2016**

Debbie Ackerman called the meeting to order at 6:38pm
Previously announced absences: Patrick, Jamie, and Sarah
In attendance: Debbie, Julie, Katy, Audrey, Catherine, Tal, Mark, Dennis, Jim, Jackie (left early), and Helen

October and November minutes were approved.

Board Member Reports

Vice-President-Audrey Davis had called to confirm spring program but had not heard back from speaker

Treasurer-Tal Day had distributed his report via email earlier. No news is good news. The investment funds are down=global trends. Not down below principle. The market will recover.
-AHS has obtained its certificate of exemption from state tax and that copies of the certificate were distributed to those known to make purchases on behalf of the Society. Any other member of the Board needing a copy should contact Tal.

Committee Reports

Membership-Mark noted that we are at 237 members and that is without any letters going out. Probably due to Mercy Street publicity and interest.

Newsletter-Jackie will be getting this out at the beginning of next month. She will include the speaker information, upcoming events through June and how well the joint tour went.

Chronicle-Helen proposed having it change format, where once a year showcase students (ideally in the fall so it could be a paper already turned in with a good grade but given a chance to make changes) and in the spring still geared towards local authors.
-Put an Editorial Board together of Helen, Jim and Catherine

Website-*Facebook Likes*: 508 likes. 130 new likes since October.

Webpage Report: 2,000 site visits since November 1st. 75% of those are new visitors to our site.

Not surprisingly our Mercy Street event had the most hits and our event calendar was also very popular.

The Real Mansion House Event: This event was extremely popular. Even after adding 20 more seats we sold out almost two weeks in advance and turned people away at the door. Everyone seemed very pleased with the event. Of the 50 attendees, 22 were AHS Members, 9 were Friends of Carlyle House and 19 were public. The budget is below:

GROSS INCOME	680.00
Food	-102.67
Paypal Fees	-31.16

NET INCOME	546.17
AHS 60% Split	327.70
CH 40% split	218.47

It was pointed out that it should be at 50/50 split and a check for the difference be written. Tal pointed out that there were still lots of Administrative privileges and people shouldn't have them or don't use them and Tal will get with Sarah.

Publicity- Jim has his Release for 1 week and 2 week list ready for March event. Looking into lectern sign – don't want it permanently attached.
 -Membership sign – will be acrylic and include logo and join here or something to the affect.
 -Helen – suggested checking in with Patty for towel rings. Debbie wanted to know if we could use some of publicity sites at Mercy Street.

Correspondence – report was emailed prior to the meeting.

Adult History Awards – Julie - letter for nominations went out in January. A brief mention of George Combs was explained. No conflict of interest between Julie and Audrey who is on another board

Student History Awards– Debbie sent reminder to teachers
 Brought up dilemma of getting a speaker. In the past has been a previous winner. Suggestions were SS Teacher, Patricia Washington, Audrey or researchers from Mercy Street. Explain how history relates to world or show what type of jobs are in the history field.

AAC – Old Town Civics Meeting – what has turned up, especially boat, Meeting Wednesday-be there by 7 pm. Start at 7:30; Lyceum – boat in tubs of water to prevent drying out. Treat with chemicals. Found floor of warehouse; taken to MD lab. Being treated with solution for 3 years. \$100,000 for boat. No \$ found to get out. Will have to get into building.

HARC – Dennis reported that recent HARC meetings have been focused on efforts to protect and preserve historical artifacts, including those found at the Carr hotel site. He believes the city should be more responsive in protecting important historical artifacts. The city has to stretch to find funding for preservation and interpretation of historical items. While the city may require developers to provide some funds for preservation as part of getting city approval for a project, those funds are not set aside. HARC has discussed the need to raise public awareness of historical preservation issues. HARC has also discussed the need for more funding—public or private— to raise awareness and protect historical artifacts. Some have suggested groups like AHS should join with other similar groups (Alexandria Association, Historical Alexandria Foundation, etc.) in a broad effort to raise public awareness. There could be a “preservation consortium” formed for raising awareness and gathering funding. The board discussed a possible letter to HARC and the City Council expressing concern and urging support for efforts to raise awareness. It was noted that several members of the AHS board could not sign such a letter due to conflicts. There was consensus that this item should be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

— Dennis also reported that HARC has been actively resisting effort by the city's affordable housing agency to demolish the Ramsey Homes.

Direct Mail— Do we want to do postcard? Yes. Get ball rolling.

Hospitality – Debbie will send email out – 4 more lectures. Julie will do April with someone else. May – Helen/Dennis

Mercy Street – will hear about feedback next month

Fairfax Genealogical Conference – do we want to send a representative? Falls Church. Not what we do. \$60 – one day; \$90 – 2 day. Decision was no.

Spring Retreat – get together at Mount Vernon to bounce out ideas; 3 hour chunk, brainstorm; new members – skill sets

Nominations Committee – Debbie will send emails out to those terms coming to end.

Next meeting: March 8th.

Adjourn: 8:19 PM