

DRAFT as of March 13

Alexandria Historical Society Board Meeting

March 12, 2019 Board Meeting Notes

Attending: Debbie Ackerman, Francine Bromberg, Audrey Davis, Tal Day, Krystyn Moon, Elizabeth Peckham, Steve Kimbel, Patrick Ladden (notes), Julia Randle

Not Attending: Erin Bush, Katy Cannady, Caroline English, Ginny Hamill, Severiano Ortiz, Catherine Weinraub

1. The February 2019 board meeting notes were approved (one correction regarding the date when T. Michael Miller award nominating letters were provided to OHA was made).

2. Plans for Spring 2019

- a. March 27: Zachary Schrag, "Thinking Big: Lessons from the Washington Metro"

Action

- i. Caroline to bring two checks to the lecture – one for the speaker and one for the videographer
 - ii. Will he bring his own laptop (Audrey to follow-up)
 - iii. Will he bring his book for sale? (Audrey)
 - iv. Audrey and Elizabeth provide hospitality (food & drink)
 - b. April 24: AHS Award Event (see below)
 - c. May 22: Cynthia Kierner, "We Cannot be Tame Spectators: Three Centuries of Virginia Women's History"

Action

- i. Will Cynthia Kierner permit filming and posting to our site? (Audrey)
 - ii. Is there a booklet the speaker wants to provide/sell? (Audrey)

- d. June 26: Eleanor Breen, "The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology"

Action

- i. Please add to our website description that the speaker is Eleanor Breen.

3. Award Event and T. Michael Miller Award: Julia reported that the committee was unanimous in its deliberations and selected two T. Michael Miller awardees this year. All prep is in good condition. Debbie spoke about the student awardees. Here too the process is in good status.

Action

- i. Special speaker is Gretchen Bulova, OHA Director

- ii. Arrange for photo releases in advance (Debbie)
- iii. Invite Mayor Justin Wilson (Debbie)
- iv. Ask Catherine W if she will serve as the official photographer (Debbie); can use the photos for PR
- v. Printed program – need template. Audrey sent electronically to Debbie March 13.

4. Program Plans for Fall 2019

- a. Confirmation of Char Bah for Wednesday, September, 25 at 7:30pm
- b. Other possible/brainstormed speakers included: Martha Jones (John Hopkins University), Eric Yellin (University of Richmond), John Hill (not sure if this is the correct name), Peter Headland (not sure if this is the correct spelling/spelling?)

- 5. Publicity: Fran has sent announcements about our March 27 program to many outlets including Alexandria Times, Zebra, NPR and others. Krystyn has posted info to AHS Facebook and to Twitter.

Action

- i. Patrick sent Fran preferred OHA format for media info on March 13 so that OHA (Dan Lee) will place into OHA's system and calendar.
- ii. Krystyn encouraged all to spread the word via social media and networks about the next speaker on the Metro. Krystyn invited the mayor to attend and although he has a conflict that night he has communicated the subject and speaker to his Transportation staff members and encouraged attendance.
- iii. Krystyn suggested to Fran that C-Span is another possible media outlet to communicate with.
- iv. Krystyn and Audrey will be interviewed by Zebra staffer Ms. Foster soon. They will talk about the mission and vision for AHS. Krystyn articulated our emphasis on social and cultural history; the importance of creating programs that emphasize Alexandria and NOVA history; other Board members chimed in at Krystyn's invitation and spoke about the well-researched articles and talks of local interest, and how we have continued to offer a lens on Alexandria history and people in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

- 6. Chronicle update: Tal reported the Spring issue is still being developed. One of the submitted articles was not up to standard so the next issue will feature two articles: one featuring the Murray Dick Fawcett House and the second one delving into the grand reviews that preceded the Battle of

Chancellorsville. Tal described the authors and how the Murray Dick Fawcett article will be a nice complement to the Fall article on Lee Fendall House. Tal suggested that in the future the total number of pages should not exceed fifteen total. Further, the Chronicle is an important vehicle to let readers/AHS members know about upcoming AHS programs. The Fall issue (likely November) does not have any content yet. He suggested that the AHS should drop a Fall program postcard as has been our recent practice. Any articles or authors board members have in mind, let Tal know.

7. Newsletter update: Elizabeth published a February Newsletter which AHS hasn't done in the past. This awakens our membership to Spring programs. Good job. The next newsletter will be in early April.
 - i. NOT DISCUSSED AT MEETING – it would be a good idea to send out a March 27 email reminder to membership the weekend before the next lecture.
 - ii. Elizabeth will continue to remind membership in the upcoming newsletters about how to register online for lectures.
8. Treasurer report – next time
9. Correspondence – Steve sent out a written report in advance. At the meeting discussion centered on the inquiry about the conversion of the Old Town Theater to a Patagonia store and about the student who was interested in finding out about LGBTQ history and records. Steve will make a written proposal before the next meeting concerning 106 as it relates to archaeology and cell tower development.
10. HARC – no reports
11. Archaeology – no report

OTHER, not all related to AHS business

- Hello Katy! Hope you are well and improving. We miss you.
- Joshua Rothman, University of Alabama History Chair, will provide a workshop for OHA and a lecture open to the public on May 16 at Lyceum, 7pm. Audrey has more info.
- Symposium at Gunston Hall: "Exposing a Buried History: The Archaeology of Slave Life" March 16, 9am – 4pm. Eleanor Breen and Audrey Davis will speak about Five Years Down the Road, The Freedman's Cemetery
- Lee Fendall and Carlyle will host a new program – Pillars and Pavers – akin to the Attics tours last couple years. See their websites for details.