Alexandria Historical Society Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Conference Call Meeting convened at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Severiano Ortiz, Steve Kimbel, Krystyn Moon, Audrey Davis, Fran Bromberg, Chris Warren, Spencer Mill, Michael Reynolds, Nate Sleeter, Catherine Weinraub, Debbie Ackerman, and Tal Day.

1. June minutes approved unanimously.

2. Fall Lecture Schedule – Audrey Davis

   Discussion of how lecture will be offered virtually. Audrey is making arrangements to partner with Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) to use their Zoom platform. Since they would host the site and provide technical support, AHS would share the cost. Suggestion made of increasing our lecture price from $5 to $6 which mirrors what OHA charges for lectures. Discussion of how ticketing would be managed, log-in process, and inclusion of hyperlink in AHS newsletter by 9/10.

   Motion from Fran to approve lecture by Zoom. Debbie seconded. Passed unanimously.

   Further discussion about how OHA will know which AHS members have paid for the lecture in order for them to receive the Zoom link. Krystyn suggested that members pay online and receive a code by email. OHA will send half of ticket sales to AHS. Subsequently it was decided to use the honor system, AHS members will be able to register for free and all others will pay $6. The Board approved creation of a Subcommittee to arrange future Zoom lectures. Nate and Mike offered to serve.

3. Spring Awards Ceremony

   Student Awards – co-chaired by Debbie and Krystyn

T. Michael Miller Awards – co-chaired by Tal and Chris.
Discussion of Judges for awards – Catherine volunteered.
Recommendations to ask Ted Pulliam and Wanda Dowd.

4. Archaeology Commission

   Steve noted that Katy Cannady is no longer on our board and we will
   need to replace her. Fran offered to investigate and report back.

5. Membership – Nate

   Nate reviewed the website and automatic membership renewals.
   Discussion of how renewals will take place if member has not chosen
   the automatic option and whether these members are receiving renewal
   emails. Nate will address these issues. Suggestion that a list of
   members who have not renewed be developed and emails sent out to
   them.

6. Publicity – Fran

   Fran noted that she will send out information about upcoming lectures
   to the aforementioned news outlets and she will include the link to sign
   up through Zoom.

7. Social Media – Spencer

   Spencer reported that he has posted information for the Fall lecture
   series on Zoom, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

8. Treasurer Report – Severiano

   Severiano noted that the treasurer's report had been previously emailed
   to the Board. There were no questions.

9. Newsletter – Krystyn

   Krystyn indicated that the newsletter is ready for dissemination. She will add the code for access to the Zoom lecture in September and address renewals to AHS.

10. "The Chronicle" – Michael Reynolds

   Mike brought up that Tal had edited the Spring issue of "The Chronicle"and had done a marvelous job. Tal will co-edit alongside Mike. The future plan is to publish a "The Chronicle" in the Fall and Spring. Requests are being made for manuscripts. Mike has received one potential article about a Dominican priest in Alexandria. Other potential subjects were raised by Catherine including the Smith family who owned the Alexandria Ironworks and the land that Ivy Hill Cemetery is on. A freed slave, Peggy, worked for the family as a Nanny and is the first African American buried there. Other suggested articles were on the relationship between Fort Ward and the Episcopal Community and on the Suffragette Movement in 1920.

11. Correspondence – Steve Kimbel

   Steve noted that he had emailed his report on correspondence. Nothing further to discuss.

12. HARC – Severiano

   HARC has not been meeting because of Covid-19. Brief discussion of American Horticultural Society sale of River Farm and future development along the George Washington Parkway.

   Motion to adjourn made by Steve at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Severiano and approved unanimously.