

G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees

Meeting January 25, 2011

Minutes

National Guard Armory Room C, 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts

Meeting Began at 5:42 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, George Maple, Robert Grogan, Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the December 7, 2010 meeting was reviewed and approved by Board.

Old Business:

1. Chairman Daniel McAuliffe updated the Board on the dates for the 150th Commemoration activities that the Board is involved with:
 - a. At the Worcester Historical Society the ship bell of the C.S.S. Albemarle will be on display along with one of the three captured Confederate flags "Freedom Victory" flag. The exhibit at the museum will run from April 26, 2011 to about the middle of November 2011.
 - b. At the Grafton Historical Society our exhibit will begin on Sunday April 3, 2011 with all Board members invited to attend. Chairman McAuliffe will do a power point presentation on "Burnside's Expedition" and possible Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez will do a power point on "C.S.S. Albemarle". The exhibit will close on April 17, 2011.
 - c. At the Worcester Public Library our exhibit will be moved there on Monday April 25, 2011 and there will be an opening ceremony at 10:00AM on Tuesday April 26, 2011. The closing date at the Worcester Public Library is May 31, 2011. During this period the exhibit will displayed along with a power point presentation on "Burnsides Expedition" and "C.S.S. Albemarle". Also during this period civil war films along with topical presentations will be presented. Details to follow in minutes.
 - d. At the Worcester City Hall the largest captured Confederate flag "Ft. Thomas" will be placed on the 3rd floor. This will be set up during the same time as the Worcester Public Library set up starting on April 26, 2011. Members will be present to open the exhibit of the flag with a history of the flag and Worcester's connection. Chairman McAulife and Mr. Rodriguez have volunteered to speak at City Hall.
 - e. At the Worcester Senior Citizens Center tentatively planned the exhibit will go up in June 2011. There Chairman McAuliffe and Secretary Rodriguez will again do their power points, "Burnside's Expedition" and "C.S.S. Albemarle". Also tentatively planned are the showing of civil war films as with the library.
2. Union Station was considered an option. However, after consideration it was not an ideal place because it lacked security as well as unknown how much interest it would get there.

3. Chairman McAuliffe informed the Board that the Confederate flags will be in Worcester by the middle of February. He stated that the heaviest flag is about 90 pounds. That flag will be placed at City Hall. The Board discussed getting it to the 3rd floor. Tim Boucher believes that the elevator will be able to hold it to bring it up.
4. Chairman McAuliffe met with General Leonid Kondratiuk at the National Guard Armory Museum and discussed the Confederate flags. As the last stop for the flag they might be put on display for the last time until they go into storage. General Kondratiuk has a vault where other valuable artifacts are kept and the flags would be welcomed there. By November 2011 all three Confederate flags (Worcester Senior Citizen Center, Worcester City Hall and Worcester Historical Society) will be transported to the National Guard Armory Museum.
5. Chairman McAuliffe updated the Board on the construction of the flag stands and the 2 display cabinets. According to Chairman McAuliffe the price for the cabinets was in \$975.00 each and \$350 just for one of the flag stands. Because of the high price offered by the city vendor, Chairman McAuliffe made a command decision and rejected that option. Afterwards at the Worcester Historical Museum, Chairman McAuliffe spoke to William Wallace, curator, who had 2 similar cases to donate to the Board to fix up and use for the Board's exhibit of the artifacts. Chairman McAuliffe and his son have volunteered to fix them up and build flag stands.
6. Mr. Rodriguez updated the Board on the civil war films portion of the commemoration. According to Mr. Rodriguez the films will be done as part of what he is calling "Civil War Cinema". Six total movies will be shown, each on its own day (the first Tuesday of March, April, May, September, October, November) with a topical presentation on the second Tuesday about the movie as well as areas it covers. The chosen movies and order are: Gods & Generals, Gettysburg, Glory, Andersonville, Cold Mountain and Gone With The Wind. A flyer has been made as well as a poster of each movie purchased to enhance the advertising of the series.

New Business:

1. Chairman McAuliffe suggested signage at City Hall telling citizens of the Confederate flag on the 3rd floor. Also signage at the Worcester Public Library exhibit informing others of the other two flag, one at City Hall and one at the Worcester Historical Society.
2. Chairman McAuliffe will have a rifle musket in the display case but wanted to show viewers how it related to other materials in the case as far as how to load it, i.e... cap, cartridge, rod, Minnie ball. Mr. Maple volunteered to bring his replica Enfield to show how to load.
3. Member Robert Grogan volunteered to arrange and plan out the agenda as well as obtaining equipment, space and invitations for the opening ceremony. Mr. Grogan will work with Tim Boucher on making arrangements to get the event on the City Council Calendar and to get assistance from the City Manager's Office on inviting dignitaries to the opening. Undetermined at this time if the ceremony will be at the exhibit or nearby due to the possible disruption to normal library activities that can be created.
4. Member George Maple volunteered to submit an article to the Worcester Senior Center's Newsletter. The article will discuss the issues faced by the civil war soldiers as they volunteered and prepared to go to war, their experience as part of the Burnside Expedition, the three

captured flags and a little on the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic). Mr. Maple will have something drafted for the next meeting. In order to keep everyone on the same page, Chairman McAuliffe will be sending his power point to Mr. Maple as part of his article and everyone will stick to as much of the article as possible.

5. Mr. Rodriguez will be a guest on a local television program TV 13 with host Mauro DePasquale. On the show, Mr. Rodriguez will talk about the planned events for the 150th Commemoration of the Civil War.
6. A book of those who fought at New Bern and Roanoke will be on display at the exhibit. Mr. Rodriguez volunteered to supplement the names of those who fought with the names of those who are buried in Worcester who were part of the "Burnside Expedition".
7. Chairman McAuliffe explained that it would have cost \$2300 to use the city vendor on building the display cabinets and flag stands. Chairman McAuliffe requested \$1280.00 from the Board so that he can purchase materials for the exhibit and along with his son build the cabinets and flag stands. Mr. Maple made a motion for the Board to give Mr. McAuliffe \$1280.00 for the materials to build the display cabinets and flag stands. Mr. Grogan seconded the motion. The members of the Board voted unanimously and the motion passed.
8. The Board then decided on which artifacts would be released from the Worcester Historical Society for the exhibition. (Note a book will be created by the exhibit explain each item, as well as cards in the display case with some details) The following are those artifacts:
 - a. Holy Bible belonging to a John Midyett, which was found at Roanoke by George S. Bettelle of the 25th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment.
 - b. Wood Carving made by soldiers as one of the activities done during camp life.
 - c. Candleholder used by sticking in ground/tree for reading/writing at night.
 - d. Wood carving with photo of carver: Private Valentine of the 21st MA INF Reg.
 - e. An item used by Lt. John W. Grout.
 - f. Letters with patriotic envelopes
 - g. Quilt pens
 - h. Fishing tool used
 - i. Coffee cup
 - j. Display of remaining fragments to the 25th MA Regimental flag
 - k. Cartridges

Mr. Grogan made a motion to accept the release of mentioned artifacts for the exhibit. Mr. Maple seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman McAuliffe will complete a release form so that every item is accounted for.

9. The bell of the C.S.S. Albemarle is back at the Worcester Historical Society. Of note is that it was transported from Plymouth, North Carolina on an 11hour trip by Mr. Tom Harrison. Mr. Harrison expressed how sentimentally valuable the bell is to their community and was assured by Chairman McAuliffe that it will be returned and during its stay in Worcester will be used to educate the citizens about the significance of the bell and most importantly the Rebel Ram that it once was on. It is believed the bell may have come from a church, Trinity Church in Scotland

Neck because it is not a traditional ship bell. The 25th Massachusetts got a hold of it and transported to Worcester where it was a prize, if not the prize of the George H. Ward G.A.R. Post 10. Chairman McAuliffe volunteered to escort the bell back to North Carolina. The bell will be displayed the Worcester Historical Society for both security purposes and to reduce damage. The bell is much larger and heavier than previously suspected. A photo of it will be placed on as part of the exhibit instead of moving it around.

10. Mr. Boucher suggested signup sheet for members to plan out when they can be at the display. The members then can be sure that someone is there to answer questions. Because it is not possible to have around the clock coverage, the display is being designed to be self-usage.

Nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7:12 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday June 22, 2011 at 5:30 pm at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees