

## **G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees**

**Meeting April 21, 2015**

Minutes

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

Meeting Began at 5:38 p.m.

**Present:** Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Michael Baker, Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the March 15th meeting were approved.

### **Old Business:**

1. At the previous 2 meetings the refurbishing of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument located on the Worcester City Common was discussed. The Board expressed a desire to provide funds for the project. Chairman Daniel McAuliffe, Trustee Michael Baker and Timothy Boucher attended a meeting on April 15, 2015 at City Hall and met with the Trust Funds Commission to discuss the Board's ability to provide the funds. It was discovered that the GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees Policy & Procedure for Using Funds was invalid. The action taken on December 6, 2006 constituted an attempt to alter the terms of the trust, and that alteration made it invalid. The alteration was expansion over the administration of the funds. Further the alterations included dividing monies and that the majority of the funds for any purpose was prohibited. Finally, an alteration was that approval for funds was not just the Board but also the City of Worcester through its Department of Public Works and Parks (Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division) and the Trust Funds Commission. With this new information Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez made a motion to declare invalid and rescind its December 6, 2006 vote. Chairman McAuliffe seconded the motion. All three members present voted to approve the motion thus declaring invalid and rescinding its December 6, 2006 vote.
2. Chairman McAuliffe reported that the lease for the Confederate Flags at the Museum of the Albemarle will end this month. Mr. McAuliffe is seeking confirmation from the curator if they have a desire to extend the loan of the flags. If there is a desire to do so, the Board agreed that at a future meeting it will vote if there will be an extension. Secretary Rodriguez noted that it would be in the best interest to have a short period of time chosen so that the flags won't be forgotten by this or any future Boards. It was agreed that if any extension is made that the initial contract can be used with an added stipulation of the added time.
3. Trustee Baker drafted a letter for the City to view as part of a request to have the 15<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts become the official honor guard of the city for Civil War related matters. Trustee Baker pointed out that in 2011, Massachusetts Governor Duval Patrick as part of the sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War) designated the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts as the honor guard of the City of Boston for Civil War related matters. The letter was reviewed

- by the Board and it was suggested that a revision be made. Once the letter is accepted by the Board it will be voted to have it forwarded to the proper city authority.
4. Trustee Baker reminded the Board about the books located in the Auditorium that was discussed at the March meeting. Trustee Baker suggested donating the books to a place where they could be used. Chairman McAuliffe reminded the Board that the books of any value or use have already been taken and that because of damage the remaining books might have no use. Trustee Baker informed the Board of his expertise in the area of history and research and that he would like to examine the books to determine if they could be donated. The Board agreed to coordinate a future a visit to the Auditorium in order to make an assessment of the books. If they can be donated then it will be determined at a later meeting and if many need to be discarded and destroyed as they are unusable then that too will be a future decision.

**New Business:**

1. Trustee Baker brought up the idea of long term fundraising. Chairman McAuliffe suggested waiting on raising any money unless there was a specific project and no money to use for it. Making money simply to have money in the funds didn't seem practical for the Board.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:05 pm

The next meeting will be determined and will be held at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees