

G.A.R. Memorial Hall Board of Trustees

Meeting September 10, 2013

Minutes

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

Meeting Began at 5:38 p.m.

Present: Daniel McAuliffe, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Robert Grogan, Aaron Richman, Timothy Boucher

Minutes of the May 14th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Chairman Daniel McAuliffe opened the meeting with a discussion on how the Board's facebook is doing. Chairman McAuliffe reported that there were 42 likes as well as 10 to 30 others who viewed it. Bob Grogan reported that he is still maintaining it and reminded all the Board members that everyone is an administrator and can add to it. Chairman McAuliffe said that he was currently working on story about George Wellington which he will post. Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez said he is researching the 1861 minutemen and had recently read the mayor of Baltimore's version of events that took place in April of 1861. Mr. Rodriguez is going to try to connect Worcester to the event. So far, a company of men from Worcester were present on train cars as the riot began but none were harmed by it. Mr. Rodriguez is going to focus on adding where the Worcester soldiers are buried as part of his article.
2. Chairman McAuliffe reminded the Board that there is furniture at the Armory previous used as the National Guard Museum that belong to the Board. Currently the building is a veteran's shelter. Chairman McAuliffe has been in contact with John Person, the person who runs the building. Mr. Person informed Chairman McAuliffe that the National Guard has not turned over "the keys" or the building officially yet. Mr. Person sounded open to allowing the Board to continue to store furniture such as display cases at the Armory. Chairman McAuliffe showed the Board a copy of the inventory list given to him by the former curator of the Armory, Leonid Kotruik.
3. The books that belong to the Board which are located in the Worcester Auditorium are still there. Chairman McAuliffe reported that he has been cataloging them.
4. Trustee Jim Merrick was not in attendance for a third meeting. The Board wasn't sure if there was continued interest or not. Chairman McAuliffe volunteered to try to contact Mr. Merrick to see if he is still interested.
5. With Chairman McAuliffe's guidance the Board began reviewing the proposed Membership Manual. Several pages were agreed upon. One page as about the City Website. Trustee Aaron Richardson pointed out that the description of the Board's function is not accurate. Trustee Richardson believed that the Board was in charge of a building. Secretary Rodriguez pointed out that it is misleading and that we did attempt to address it in the past. Trustee Bob Grogan

showed the Board via a cell phone that wording was previously voted upon as to the true function of the Board. The Board's current duties are to maintain the artifacts but also to provide use of them for the purpose of education. Trustee Bob Grogan will send the exact wording to Mr. Boucher to try to get the website updated. Chairman McAuliffe pointed out that the word "Hall" needs to be removed. Secretary Rodriguez pointed out that if the word "Hall" is part of the legal definition of the Board, that it might not be as simple to remove it. Mr. Boucher asked that if the Board wants the word removed and the wording of the duties to change to send him documentation of what is wanted and he would look into it.

New Business:

1. Chairman McAuliffe had five pieces of correspondence/articles to share with the Board and have filed:
 - a. Ed Norris, Department Commander of the S.U.V.C.W. in Massachusetts sent a letter to Susan Greendyke who has control of the battle flags sent from Worcester to the State House in Boston. The letter asked if any of the flags have been unfurled yet as well as has any work begun on them. According to Ms. Greendyke none of the flags have been unfurled. Chairman McAuliffe would like to express to Ms. Greendyke that when choosing a flag to prepare to mount to choose the regiment flag of the 25th Massachusetts. Reason being that the 25th, a Worcester unit was part of the Battle of New Bern experience.
 - b. An article on when the CSA flags were rediscovered was found. Part of the article had a comment that the flags were not battle flags as initially reported, but in fact fort flags.
 - c. Holly Izard of the Worcester Historical Society was given the names of all Board members in order to allow access of artifacts by members.
 - d. In the book "Passing of the G.A.R." Chairman McAuliffe found reference to the Bell of the Albemarle.
 - e. An article on the large bronze plaques located in the Hall was also found.
2. Tim Boucher informed the Board of access to the materials being stored at the National Guard Armory building at Skyline Drive. According to Mr. Boucher, members can stop in anytime to view the material or possibly sign it out. The material includes 3 red colored binders with G.A.R. minutes, correspondence, letters, and other miscellaneous items. The binders are currently on the bottom shelf of the bookcase in the Room C.
3. Chairman McAuliffe informed the Board that he is getting in contact with Steven White, Director of New England Dream Center which is the current occupants of the G.A.R. Hall. The purpose is to get access to the Hall in order to take clear photographs of the bronze plaques containing the members of G.A.R. Post 10. Another purpose is to remind the new owners that the plaques belong to the city and thus are under the trust of the Board.
4. Chairman McAuliffe informed the Board that an S.U.V. Camp (North Carolina Union Volunteers Camp #5) in North Carolina are in the beginning phases of creating a federal monument in New Bern, North Carolina. Currently they are in discussion with the New Bern

Historical Society as to placement if the project moves forward. Chairman McAuliffe believes it would be a worthy cause to assist in raising funds if the project moves forward. According to Chairman McAuliffe the 21st Massachusetts and 25th Massachusetts were Worcester units and would be an appropriate cause. Chairman McAuliffe thought about asking the designers if they would consider adding the towns that formed and trained the regiments. The idea is that places like Worcester County might feel more motivated to donate. Chairman McAuliffe passed around copies of the initial drawing of the proposed monument. Ideas as to how to fundraise were discussed. Ideas included a member in Union soldier uniform at a city event staffing a table with a donation can/jar, setting up displays of city artifacts at various locations with a donation can/jar nearby, soliciting businesses and using online sources to solicit funds. It was agreed by the Board that a tax deduction charity number would be needed. Tim Boucher pointed out that if the Board chooses to fund raise that a check with the law department would be order to ensure that having a donation can/jar nearby was legal or not. The Board agreed that more discussion would take place if the monument project moves forward and that it would be unreasonable to collect funds if there is no monument project.

5. Considering that 3 members of the Board are closing in on the end of their current appointments, Tim Boucher suggested appointing a Vice Chair. Chairman McAuliffe and the Board agreed. Chairman McAuliffe asked Trustee Richardson if he would accept the position if the Board approved the appointment. Trustee Richardson said he would. Trustee Bob Grogan made the motion to appoint Trustee Aaron Richardson to Vice Chairman of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Board of Trustees. Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the 4 of 5 members present.
6. Trustee Grogan reported to the Board that at the last Memorial Day, the Flag at Hope Cemetery should only have been at ½ staff until noon. Mr. Boucher said he would check with Robert Antonelli who is responsible for the cemetery and inform him of the protocol/law on behave of the Board.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:42 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 12, 2013 (11/12/13) at 5:30 pm at the National Guard Armory on Skyline Drive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez

Secretary, GAR Memorial Hall Board of Trustees